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THE TIMES

No. 65,069

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 26 1994

Jubilant Haitians exact revenge

Police and army buildings sacked after 10 security men are shot by US troops

FROM TOM RHODES
IN PORT-AU-PRINCE AND
IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AUTHORITY collapsed in the port city of Cap-Haïtien yesterday as jubilant Haitians, some firing into the air, looted abandoned police stations and army barracks, pausing only to thank American troops who had forced out the dreaded Haitian police.

US marines had stormed the police headquarters after a shoot-out in which ten Haitians were killed and an American wounded. It was the first time American troops had opened fire. President Clinton said that he regretted the loss of life, but US forces were prepared to respond to hostile actions, and will do so.

After the shooting and the ransacking of the police headquarters by the mob, the marines occupied

the police headquarters and main army barracks without further incident. The looters had also ransacked other police and army buildings in a near-carnival atmosphere, carrying off furniture and papers, including identity cards belonging to the police and the notorious Attaches, their unofficial auxiliaries. They also looted large amounts of arms and ammunition, handing them over to US troops and even to journalists.

Lieutenant General Hugh Shelton, commander of US operations in Haiti, and William Swing, the American Ambassador, flew to the northern city accompanied by Lieutenant General René Cédras, leader of Haiti's military junta, in an attempt to calm an unstable situation.

The marines were trying to confiscate weapons from Haitian military police when the shoot-out took place. According to US officials, four armed men appeared from behind the police station desk brandishing guns and opened fire, wounding an American sailor working for the marines as a translator. In the return fire the US troops killed the ten Haitians.

Five Haitians were arrested and taken to a warehouse less than a mile from the US headquarters in Cap-Haïtien on Saturday night. Two 38 calibre revolvers and an M1 rifle were confiscated by the marines who sealed off the area around the building. A liaison officer for Colonel Claude Joseph, the local Haitian military commander, was assured that the American army was "not at war with the Haitian government".

The confrontation reflects increasing resentment towards the American forces on the part of previously powerful military groups. But vigorous action by the US troops may embolden Haitian demonstrators. In Port-au-Prince, weekend demonstrations by supporters of Jean Bertrand Aristide, the exiled President ousted by a military coup in 1991, resulted in minor injuries when Haitian police used tear gas and beat a pregnant woman before dragging away at least two of the crowd.

In the slum area of Cité Soleil yesterday, however, the killing had started again. Verdieu Cadet, 44, lay dead among the debris of the city's worst slum having been shot in the back of the head. His family and friends wept over the body, saying that Mr Cadet had been killed the previous night by Attaches. "There is no safety here," a woman said. "Please tell the American troops to give us security."

For the first time in days the Attaches are cruising the streets in their four-wheel-drive cars, giving the impression that it is they, rather than the Americans, who still control the city.

A weekend visit by William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, and General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, may have given a boost to US soldiers, but it has done little to ease the increasing concern among supporters of Mr Aristide that he might not return by the deadline of October 1st set under the terms of the recent Port-au-Prince accord.

Mr Perry said that Mr Aristide, who was to appear on Haitian television last night, might not be ready to return by the date agreed between the Haitian military and former US President Carter.

In Washington, senior defence officials were dismayed by the loss of ten Haitian lives in the shoot-out, but said they had expected such incidents and were resolved to respond to any similar attacks in future. The Cap-Haïtien incident was seized on by Republicans who are critical of Mr Clinton's Haitian policy as a compelling reason to

table a resolution in Congress this week demanding a set date for the withdrawal of all American forces. Inevitably, the shoot-out raised questions in Washington about whether it was the start of a slippery, downward slope for the Americans similar to Somalia where they lost 18 lives in a single day during a ferocious battle with local guerrillas.

General Shalikashvili said yesterday that the Americans would use force if mob violence became a clear threat to civil stability in Haiti. The Americans had made clear to General Cédras that thousands of weapons issued to the civilian militia must be recalled quickly. "That is being done," the general said — aided by a reward of \$50 (£32) for every weapon.

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Clarke signals tax cuts in battle for votes

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke yesterday reasserted his determination to cut taxes before the next election as Tony Blair's courtship of the middle classes intensified with a pledge to ditch Labour's "tax and spend" image.

With the economy emerging as the main political battleground the Chancellor of the Exchequer sought to reassure anxious Tories that he would not surrender lightly any hard-won territory to Mr Blair's new-look Labour Party.

While he again ruled out tax cuts in his autumn Budget, Mr Clarke emphasised his determination to put the Government back on the tax-cutting agenda of the 1980s in time for an election in late 1996 or the spring of 1997. But at the same time he warned his party that the public would not be taken in by panic measures. Tax cuts would yield a political dividend only if people were convinced that they were justified by the underlying state of the economy and could be sustained.

"When we cut taxes is going to be determined by when public spending is so controlled and public borrowing is so reduced that we can afford it," he said on BBC Television's *Breakfast with Frost*. "Everybody knows the Labour Party couldn't do that."

But the Chancellor's promise of tax cuts in the longer term failed to buy off the Tory right. Its champions warned that Mr Clarke would have to fight on his hands if he failed to make a start on cutting income tax this autumn.

Sir George Gardiner, chairman of the right-wing 92 Group, which includes more than 80 Tory MPs, said: "The country needs an early indication of what we intend."



All smiles: John Major giving a farewell hug to Naina Yeltsin yesterday at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, watched by President Yeltsin and Norma Major

Yeltsins warm to Major's embrace

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major sealed a new era of Russian-British ties yesterday with a kiss for President Yeltsin's wife, Naina, and a revived peace plan for Bosnia.

The two leaders, who also discussed the Queen's visit to Russia next month, exchanged bearhugs on the tarmac at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire as Mr Yeltsin left for New York to address the UN General Assembly.

The Prime Minister and the Russian leader repeatedly enthused about the warmth of their informal weekend at Chequers, during which Mr Yeltsin discovered a penchant for Stilton and British pubs.

Mr Major said: "We have not been talking across a table, but over walks, over meals." Mr Yeltsin beamed as he spoke of "warm hospitality".

Initiative hailed, page 12

Police net 11,000 wild bird's eggs

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

POLICE seized 11,000 wild bird's eggs yesterday in a series of raids on illegal traders and collectors. The haul, biggest of its kind, is believed to include osprey, golden eagle and peregrine falcon eggs.

Documents, maps and photographs were also seized at nine premises across eight counties. Two men were released after questioning, and inquiries were continuing last night to determine if any of the eggs were held legally.

"Operation Avocet", named for the symbol of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, was led by wildlife officers from Wiltshire Police, and RSPB experts. Inspector Bob Philpott said last night: "We have recovered so much stuff which has to be looked at, but we believe the rare eggs include things like golden eagles, osprey, peregrines and other European eagles."

The raids were in Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale, Gwent; Hoddleston, Herts; Whitby Bay, Northumbria; Brighthelm and Torquay, Devon; Carlisle, Cumbria; Hartwell, Northamptonshire; and Aylesbury, Bucks. Derek Niemann, of the RSPB, said last night: "These seizures are very important. We are very pleased with the results. There are at least 200 active egg collectors in this country; many collect anything they can get."

The investigation followed "Operation Salisbury", which culminated in a police raid on the annual dinner of the Jourdain Society, a registered charity which studies eggs, in Salisbury in July.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 sets fines of up to £5,000 an egg for possessing eggs of protected birds, unless they were obtained before 1982 when the act came into force.

Supermarket wars heat up

Tesco is to cut prices on 100 own-label and branded items in its 440 stores today, and Lidl, the German discount operator with 1,500 stores in Europe, will open a store in Milton Keynes. Page 44

Ferry crew hurt in lifeboat fall

Sixteen crew members of a P&O cross-Channel ferry were injured yesterday after falling 20ft into the sea when restraining gear failed on a lifeboat test. The accident occurred before 400 passengers boarded the ferry at Cherbourg for Portsmouth.

Beauty spot row

Hundreds of rowers demonstrated at Bowgrave, a beauty spot near Garstang, in the Lancashire moorlands, to highlight a dispute over access. They criticised the owner, the Duke of Westminster. Page 3

Adams appeals for 'permanent peace'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, took to the American airwaves yesterday to declare he is "not interested in any temporary suspension" of the conflict in Northern Ireland, the strongest hint yet that the 25-day IRA ceasefire may be permanent.

On the first full day of a 16-day tour across America, he told ABC TV's *Good Morning America* programme: "I want to see a permanent peace. I've spent my life struggling, with others, to get the conditions for a permanent peace."

But he remained ambiguous on the question of a permanent ceasefire, adding: "I want to see British troops permanently off our streets. I want to see political prisoners permanently out of prison."

In his role as a harbinger of peace, Mr Adams has been careful to present a moderate

face while appealing to Irish-Americans to bring pressure on the British Government to pull out of Northern Ireland and to act as "guarantors of the peace process".

The Clinton Administration has decided that Mr Adams will be seen only by a mid-level diplomat during his US visit and that neither the President nor any other senior officials will meet him.

Even so, the meeting will be the first formal link between the US government and the IRA's political wing that anyone can remember. As such, it will be closely watched in Britain and Ireland.

A White House official said the Administration was well aware that the IRA was still a Continued on page 2, col 3

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Essex Man hijacks the legend of King Arthur

By ALAN HAMILTON

KING Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table were really Essex Men, according to a new theory which emerged yesterday.

Camelot was in fact Camulodunum, the Roman name for Colchester, while Tintagel and other West Country sites long associated with the Arthurian legend do not get so much as a look-in.

The claimant, needless to say, is an Essex Man with a vested interest. Alan Goldsmith, vice-chairman of the Essex Tourism Association and an amateur historian, believes there is definite historical evidence to place Arthur somewhere between Ilford and Clacton.

"Colchester is Britain's oldest recorded town and its Roman name is very similar to Camelot," Mr Goldsmith said yesterday.

"When the Romans withdrew in AD 407 they left a rearguard contingent in Colchester under the command of a general called Arturius. His exploits quickly earned him the title of king among the locals."

Geoffrey of Monmouth, whose 12th-century *Historia Regum Britanniae* is the basis of much of the legend, is thoroughly vague on matters of geography. Mr Goldsmith believes, however, that Geoffrey's description of the Camelot countryside fits north Essex much better than any of the West Country sites which capitalise on their Arthurian connections. The claims of Tintagel and Cadbury hill fort to be the real Camelot are, according to Mr Goldsmith, extremely flimsy.

"The plain truth is that the southeast of England, and Essex in particular, were the great centres of power and commerce in the

fifth century, and Colchester has a better claim than most to be the original Camelot," Mr Goldsmith said. Historians had ignored the facts because they did not like to involve themselves in matters so shrouded in myth and romance.

Essex badly needs to pull Excalibur from the stone to improve its undeserved but tarnished image as a county where the round tables are from MFI and chivalry means asking a girl back to your place to change when you spill a Diamond White cider down her Lycra. Mr Goldsmith's association is considering a series of events to establish Essex's claim to Arthur, including a treasure hunt. The prize will be a replica Holy Grail; despite the county's reputation as a haven for fixers, wide boys, wheeler-dealers and latterday spivs, it has not been able to lay hands on the original.



Tintagel's Arthur: is the place wrong?

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Edward Kennedy launches Sinn Fein president's nine-day 'campaign'

Adams tries to win over American opinion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

GERRY Adams set off on the campaign trail across America yesterday, rousing the faithful and kissing babies in the search, not for votes, but for legitimacy.

His nine-city, 16-day tour has many of the hallmarks and carefully planned appeal of a presidential campaign swing in the closing weeks of an election. The Sinn Fein president plans to present his case to every important constituency in the country, from the auto workers of the Midwest to the politicians in Washington, to the Jewish lobby in New York, the business community and the American press.

Michael Mates, the Tory MP, is also in the United States to present the Government's point of view, but Mr Adams is certain to take the media limelight in a country where, in less than a year, he has been transformed from an obscure foreign politician into a key player in American domestic politics.

Whether Mr Mates, bluff and quintessentially English, is the right man to provide a counterpoint to the Adams' charisma will be reflected in the American media barometer in coming days. Mr Adams has already made front page headlines and television news, while the presence of Mr Mates has passed largely unnoticed.

Mr Adams is seeking to reinforce his image as a vital peacemaker and to further woo an already sympathetic American public. A ringing endorsement from Senator Edward Kennedy kicked off Mr Adams' American campaign at a press conference at Boston airport. Senator Ken-

nedy described Mr Adams as a "courageous leader in advancing the cause of peace in Northern Ireland".

Mr Adams returned the praise, calling the Kennedy family a personification "of the contribution Ireland has made to this country".

Both men avoided the question of whether the IRA ceasefire will be permanent, while Senator Kennedy repeatedly stressed that he, and President Clinton, considered the end of hostilities to be "ongoing and continuing".

Mr Adams's initial message on American soil was conciliatory, declaring that Unionists had as much right as Republicans to decide the future of Northern Ireland, but he struck a more strident note with Irish-Americans near Springfield, Massachusetts, on Saturday night.

"We happen to live by an island that happens to think it is better than anyone else in the world," Mr Adams told the John Boyle O'Reilly Social Club, adding that "some in the right wing of the Tory Government think they still rule America".

Urging America's 40 million Irish-Americans to lobby their representatives to demand British withdrawal from Northern Ireland, he said: "They're afraid of you."

"They should be!" came shouts from the audience. After a Mass and rally near Hartford, Connecticut, Mr Adams returns to Boston where he will thank local politicians for their support in persuading President Clinton to grant him a visa.

Permanent peace, page 1
Leading article, page 19



Gerry Adams, left, with Senator Edward Kennedy in Boston, where they gave a joint press conference

Adams calls for permanent peace

Continued from page 1
terrorist organisation, despite the ceasefire, and therefore the opening of a dialogue would be launched at a low level.

The Adams visit was generating far less American media attention than his first arrival on US shores last winter, but this time the British Government has Michael Mates, a former Minister of State for Northern Ireland, to counter Mr Adams's fluent espousal of the IRA's cause. He challenged Mr Adams to a face-to-face interview when the Sinn Fein leader arrives in New York on Wednesday.

Mr Mates said in Washington yesterday: "The name of the game is to bring balance to

the ceasefire, rather than the simplistic view that Mr Adams was responsible for peace while the British Government did nothing. In fact, it was John Major's initiative in the Downing Street statement that produced peace and it took Mr Adams and the IRA eight months to realise they were going nowhere."

Mr Adams, speaking yesterday at an open-air rally after a Catholic mass in Glastonbury, Connecticut, told a cheering crowd of 600 supporters that US citizens should not let the British Government set the agenda on negotiations over the future of Northern Ireland.

"The British don't want

Sinn Fein to come and speak in the United States because they fear your power," he said. "They're afraid of information."

Mr Adams met Senator Edward Kennedy on his arrival in Boston on Saturday and after greeting supporters in Connecticut and Massachusetts spent yesterday in private meetings with the American politicians, who successfully lobbied President Clinton to issue him with a second US visa.

Appealing to the nationalism of Irish-Americans in his speech yesterday, he recalled the days when they suffered discrimination, and pointed to

the "Kennedy dynasty" and America's 13 Irish-American presidents as proof of the ability of Irish people to govern themselves.

In New York Mr Adams is expected to be presented with the keys to the city at a formal ceremony outside City Hall while the Empire State Building will be bathed in green light to mark his arrival.

The questions British ministers are urging journalists to press on Mr Adams while he is in the US are why he will not declare the IRA ceasefire to be permanent, and why he will not support the idea of a referendum on the province's future for the people of Northern Ireland.

Clarke lowers hope of rail settlement

Hopes of a settlement in the rail dispute suffered a blow yesterday when Kenneth Clarke appeared to suggest that the Government would veto any deal above 5 per cent for striking signalworkers. The Chancellor's intervention, on BBC Television's *Breakfast with Frost*, came as talks between Railtrack and the Rail, Maritime and Transport union went into their fifth day, prompting accusations from Labour that the Tories were trying to prolong the strike for political ends. Negotiators still hope for a breakthrough before the next 48-hour strike, due to start on Thursday.

BSE cover-up alleged

A German vet who claims that "mad cow" disease has infected German herds said yesterday that her efforts to alert the public had been blocked. Margrit Herbst, of the Creutzfeldt Institute in Kiel, believes that one in a thousand German cattle is infected but the German Government insists there have been only four cases, all in imported animals. "They kept a lid on my conclusions," she said.

Concern at doctors' ban

Rules allowing doctors who have sexually assaulted patients back on medical registers less than a year after being struck off should be urgently reviewed, MPs and pressure groups say. David Blunkett, shadow Health Secretary, said he wanted to know what action the General Medical Council was taking over a claim that doctors were being readmitted as early as ten months later.

PC charged with murder

An RUC officer was charged last night with murdering his wife and two young children. John Torney, 39, a constable at Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, is expected to appear in court today. Linda Torney, 35, a former policewoman, and her children, John, 13, and Emma, 11, were found shot dead in the family home in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, early last Tuesday.

Job seekers 'lack skills'

Smaller firms wanting to create new jobs are finding that a shortage of skilled workers is a major barrier, according to a survey of 500 companies by the British Chamber of Commerce. Almost 60 per cent of those questioned said literacy was the biggest problem, followed by a lack of numeracy skills. Fewer than half the firms questioned recruited staff via Job Centres.

Marching for animals

Thousands of protesters, led by politicians, celebrities and people in animal costumes, joined a march in London yesterday protesting against animal cruelty. A petition carrying more than 250,000 signatures was delivered to 10 Downing Street. The march was organised by the International Fund for Animal Welfare to mark the start of Animal Action Week.

School assemblies

PRESSURE on the Government to change guidelines on school assemblies, which require schools to have a "special status" religious assembly, is mounting. A meeting of Church of England education officials in London next month. Criticism was levelled at the guidelines by senior staff in the National Society, an evangelical church body which promotes religious education.

Two held over killings

Two teenagers were being questioned last night after the discovery of the bodies of a father and son in a burnt-out council house shortly after neighbours drew up a petition demanding the eviction of the pair. Charlie Collins, 71, a child molester recently freed from jail, and Stephen, his son, were found battered to death in their home in Kingsbridge, Devon. The house had been set alight.

First firearms charge

A man aged 37 is thought to be the first person to be charged under new laws covering imitation firearms. He was arrested after a starting pistol was fired twice at a taxi driver in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, on Saturday. Stuart Young, from Brighton, was charged with possessing an imitation firearm with the intention of causing someone to fear that unlawful violence will be used against them.

Man tells of mauling

The man mauled by a lion and two cubs at London Zoo two weeks ago said yesterday that he had climbed over the fence of the animals' enclosure to prove that he was the son of God. Tony Saruni, 24, of Clapton, east London, said that he felt no pain as the lions attacked. "But I could see them crushing my bones and ripping my flesh," Mr Saruni has discharged himself from hospital.

Logjam forces air traffic control sale to be shelved

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to privatise the air traffic control system have been shelved because of the legislative logjam likely to result from the Government's sale of the Post Office.

Details of the scheme have been criticised widely in the aviation industry but senior civil servants were ordered to produce a draft Bill for inclusion in the Queen's Speech in November. Their work may have been in vain because the complexities of Post Office privatisation are likely to take up much parliamentary time.

Sale of the National Air Traffic

Services (NATS) has been regarded as an essential plank of the Government's competition policy and one considered likely to receive enthusiastic backing from airlines and other airspace users. Those groups did in general support the principle but the details attracted bitter criticism.

Even British Airways told the Transport Department during the short consultation period that it was "not satisfied that, in the form proposed, this development will best meet the objectives of the industry which NATS exists to serve".

Others feared costs would rise and any action taken would run contrary to plans for a single air traffic system

throughout Europe. Unions representing the 6,500 controllers, who handle all flights above 7,000ft and landings and take-offs from 22 airports, threatened to strike over the proposals, which they said could diminish safety.

The Civil Aviation Authority and the Transport Department remained adamant that privatisation was the only way the service could continue to raise the £150 million a year that is spent on improving facilities. They rejected allegations that safety would be eroded and argued that although criticisms were being made, the principle was strongly supported.

They are now drawing up new

plans to "ringfence" NATS and to make it self-governing while remaining firmly in government ownership and responsible to the CAA. The Government will maintain that privatisation of NATS remains its goal.

Only if Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, fails to convince Cabinet colleagues that the Post Office should be sold is it possible for the sale of NATS to be revived. Over the next few weeks Mr Heseltine will be putting the finishing touches to his plans and aiming to convince doubters that they will not create new problems for the Government and that they will work in detail.



Heseltine: aiming to convince the doubters

How anyone can claim Social Security at any age

Every year, thousands of millions of pounds on offer from the Government go unclaimed. In some schemes, the take up rate is only a third of those eligible - just because most people don't even know the Government owes them that money. The latest statistics show up to 2 million people are not taking up their benefits, including income support totalling £1.5 billion.

A new book tells how every UK citizen can collect their share of the £68 billion that will be handed out this year by the Government. The book explains how to collect social security before retirement, small business loans, income supplements, education benefits, farm loans and unemployment job training. Here are just a few facts covered:

- How 4.820.000 people collect monthly benefits from one scheme alone.
- How to qualify for disability pensions (more than 970,000 collecting but thousands more eligible).
- How to know when to quit work and start collecting monthly retirement benefits.
- How to collect unemployment benefits even if you quit your job or were fired.
- How to get well-paid Government jobs.
- How to get type cash to start your own business. (It's simple and the book tells you exactly how to do it.)
- How to collect a £50,000 grant for home improvements.
- How to collect £3,600 or much more a year to attend college.
- How to get free prescriptions, spectacles and dental care.
- How to collect hundreds of pounds a month to pay your rent.
- How to get up to a £100,000 business loan, even if you are poor and unemployed.
- How certain people collect hundreds of pounds extra a month to supplement the family income.

Although the book, *How To Collect From The Government* could mean thousands of pounds to you, it is being offered at only £9.95 (fully inclusive). To order send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with exp. date) to Camille plc, Dept 8880, Alresford, W. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You can return the book at any time for a full refund if not satisfied.

Inspectors to focus on quality of teaching

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to streamline primary school inspections and concentrate on monitoring standards in the "three Rs" and classroom discipline have been drawn up by government inspectors.

The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) is seeking far-reaching changes to the new inspection regime as it struggles to fulfil a legal requirement to check all 19,000 English primary schools within four years.

A confidential review has decided that primary inspections should focus on the quality of teaching and learning in mathematics, reading, writing, science and pupils' behaviour. Under the blueprint, inspectors would adopt a "dipstick" approach to check the quality of lessons in subjects such as history, music, physical education and art. Requirements that inspectors evaluate almost every area of school life - from financial management to the condition of buildings - would be dropped. Instead, they would investigate such areas only when they believed they were affecting a school's delivery of basic skills and depressing standards.

The proposals will be presented to the Education Secretary next month. Ofsted is anxious that the inspections are piloted in some primaries this academic year, allowing the new approach to be introduced from next September.



Mandelson: trusted

Ashdown finds ally in Labour

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

TONY Blair signalled yesterday that he is prepared to respond positively to overtures from Paddy Ashdown. Peter Mandelson, Labour MP for Hartlepool and a former party publicity chief, welcomed the idea of a closer relationship with the Liberal Democrats. He predicted that after the next election the Liberal Democrats would back a Labour government.

On Friday, the Liberal Democrat leader made a coded appeal to his party conference to make "common cause" with Labour. Publicly, Mr Blair is staying aloof from talk of deals, but Mr Mandelson's remarks on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* were a hint that privately the Labour leader favours a rapprochement.

Clarke tax move, page 1
Peter Riddell and William Rees-Mogg, page 18

Rifkind tries to hold line on £22bn defence budget

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, is expected to seek a firm promise from the Treasury this week that his £22 billion budget will be safe from further severe cuts.

Mr Rifkind is holding his first meeting with the Treasury tomorrow as part of the Government's autumn public expenditure round.

He will see Jonathan Aitken, the new Chief Secretary, who as Mr Rifkind's former deputy at the Defence Ministry was one of the guiding hands behind the Frontline First programmes that led to savings in the support services of £750 million.

Ministry officials said last

night that any attempt to make further substantial reductions would be "grossly unfair and unrealistic".

After the Frontline First package was announced in July, John Major said the defence budget would not be affected to any significant extent by the next public expenditure round. However, Mr Aitken is not expected to allow his former department to escape altogether from planned new public spending cuts.

As the minister responsible for the day-to-day running of the seven-month defence cost, Mr Aitken also knows of many other proposals for saving money that were rejected

by Mr Rifkind. They included larger cuts in the weapons procurement executive and bigger reductions in RAF support personnel.

There are also concerns at the Treasury that Mr Rifkind will fail to meet the 1995-96 deadline for saving an additional £500 million by leasing service married quarters to the private sector.

The ministry had hoped to raise enough private-sector funds to hand over the 68,000 properties, 10,000 of which are empty, on a 30-year lease through an independent trust. The ministry would contract to lease back the homes required for service families.

The proposal has developed into a more complex challenge, although private financial institutions have shown an interest. Until now, the Treasury has been adamant that the transfer must be completed by the 1995-96 deadline. The MoD has now admitted that the deal could be delayed, placing further pressure on the defence budget.

The ministry has not yet started to implement the majority of the cuts outlined in Frontline First, because of an agreement to allow a three-month consultation period. Some of the cuts, such as the closure of the Royal Marine school of music at Deal in Kent by 1996, have provoked angry local reaction.

Under Frontline First, 18,700 service and civilian jobs are to go and dozens of facilities are to close, including the partial shutdown of the Rosyth naval base.

Hi-tech weapons are too expensive to lose

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

MODERN weapons systems are becoming too expensive to risk losing in war. Defence analysts fear the prohibitive cost of replacing vital equipment could inhibit commanders from deploying their best weapons in a crisis.

The burgeoning cost of Europe's largest military-industrial project, Eurofighter 2000, has highlighted concern. The hi-tech interceptor, being built jointly by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain, is two years behind schedule and substantially over budget. Many critics believe it is over-engineered and over-priced.

Each plane costs about £32

million and Britain is planning to buy around 250 at a cost of £8 billion. Many observers fear that the final cost will be more than £40 million a plane.

Geoffrey Lee Williams, a lecturer in international studies at Cambridge University, believes projects such as Eurofighter are in danger of becoming unaffordable machines "because you simply can't afford to lose any".

The question military procurement officials should be asking themselves was not "how many can we afford" but "how many can we afford to lose", he said.

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Dispute grows over moorland access as walkers claim freedom to roam is a basic human need

Duke accused of using conservation to ban ramblers

BY NICK NUTTALL AND MARIANNE CURPHY



Westminster: wants to ban public access



Rally here

A DISPUTE over access to one of England's most spectacular beauty spots erupted yesterday as senior members of the Ramblers' Association criticised the Duke of Westminster for depriving the public of the right to roam his Lancashire moorlands.

Hundreds of ramblers gathered at Bowland near Garstang led by Janet Street-Porter, president of the association, to highlight growing concern over traditional access to private lands.

David Berskine, assistant director of the association, said that increasing numbers of landowners were attempting to use nature conservation as an excuse for banning walkers.

He cited cases in the Highlands and in the North York Moors where up to 12 big landowners are pressing the area's national park board to back a ban on walkers. Mr Berskine said such moves were aimed at depriving the public of their centuries-old "freedom to roam".

Ms Street-Porter condemned as "obscene" keep-out signs put up by private landowners. She said: "What is it about walking that these landowners fear? What harm can I

do to their precious heather? I make no noise, leave no marks, drop no litter. I shoot no birds and trap no animals.

This land is part of our heritage. The human spirit needs to experience the emptiness and solitude of places like Bowland now more than ever. The right to roam is a basic human need," the media personality said.

Walkers and ramblers who challenge landowners face fines and imprisonment under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill which gets Royal Assent next month and creates a new offence of aggravated trespass.

Mr Berskine said: "Trespass is a civil offence, but this will make it a criminal one and a stain on someone's reputation. People are going to be deterred from exercising their traditional rights. We believe the right to roam needs to be enshrined in law. It can have reservations to cover such issues of grouse shooting."

The dispute with the Duke of Westminster has been growing since he bought the 19,500-acre Abbotswood Estate in the Forest of Bowland in 1980. The land, which is within an Area of Outstanding



Janet Street-Porter yesterday: "What is it about walking that these landowners fear? What harm can I do to their precious heather?"

Natural Beauty, has fine heather moorland and contains a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area for birds. It is used for grouse shooting and sheep grazing.

Under an existing agreement, brokered by Lancashire County Council, ramblers were given open access to about 1,700 acres and a seven-mile walk across Little Dale Fell. But the agreement is up

for renewal and the association is pressing for the freedom to roam all of the land in the duke's ownership.

The duke has written to the association claiming that open and de-facto access is impractical as it would put at risk important populations of wild birds.

Alan Howard, chairman of the 98,000-strong association, said: "Conservation is being used as an excuse by the Duke

of Westminster to ban walkers from much of one of the finest, wildest and most remote-feeling areas of open moorland in England."

He said studies by the North West Raptor Protection Group, a local body of ornithologists who have been monitoring wild bird numbers on the duke's land, show a decrease since his purchase. "On neighbouring moorland owned by North West Water,

birds of prey nest and breed generally more successfully than on the duke's land. Yet North West Water allows public access to its land," Mr Howard said.

A spokesman for the Abbotswood estate yesterday disputed the findings. He said "This is a very sensitive and delicate ecosystem... English Nature and the RSPB do not want de-facto access."

But Mr Howard said they

had a letter dated September 14 from Dr Derek Langslow, chief executive of English Nature, stating: "We have never made any representation to Lancashire County Council suggesting there should be no further access on the Bowland Fells."

A spokesman for the RSPB said yesterday that it supported restrictions on walkers only during the breeding season between March and July.

Vicar urges flock to higher interest

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Kingdom of Heaven is a vicar moving among his flock handing out £5 notes.

To breathe life into the parable of the talents, the Rev Peter Murphy, vicar of Lyndhurst parish church, Hampshire, distributed the money to his parishioners at morning service yesterday.

Mr Murphy gave them until next Easter to show what they had done with it.

With interest rates little better than an unheavenly 7 per cent, recipients of the money were considering higher-risk investment strategies.

One elderly parishioner was reported to be intending placing her fiver on a horse, another declared she would buy a ladder to start a window-cleaning round, while still others planned to use their windfall as the entry fee to a car boot sale. The biggest risk

taker is Mr Murphy himself, who changed £105 of his own money into fivers while having a drink in his local pub on Saturday night.

"The whole idea is that people are great possessors of talents which they do not use. This is trying to encourage them to use their talents in a constructive way," Mr Murphy said yesterday.

Mr Murphy said the money may not be promised entry into the joy of the Lord, but the wicked and the slothful who stick it in a hole in the ground — known today as a current account — are not threatened with being cast into the outer darkness.

Bemused parishioners appeared to have seized the scheme with enthusiasm, but they were briefly tempted to believe that they were living not in Lyndhurst but Wonderland. The church's chief claim to fame is the grave of Alice Liddell, the original Alice of the Lewis Carroll tales.

Son is freed after lovers' lane shots

BY RICHARD DUCE

A MARRIED man was recovering in hospital last night after a gunman shot him at close range while he parked in a lover's layby with his son's former girlfriend.

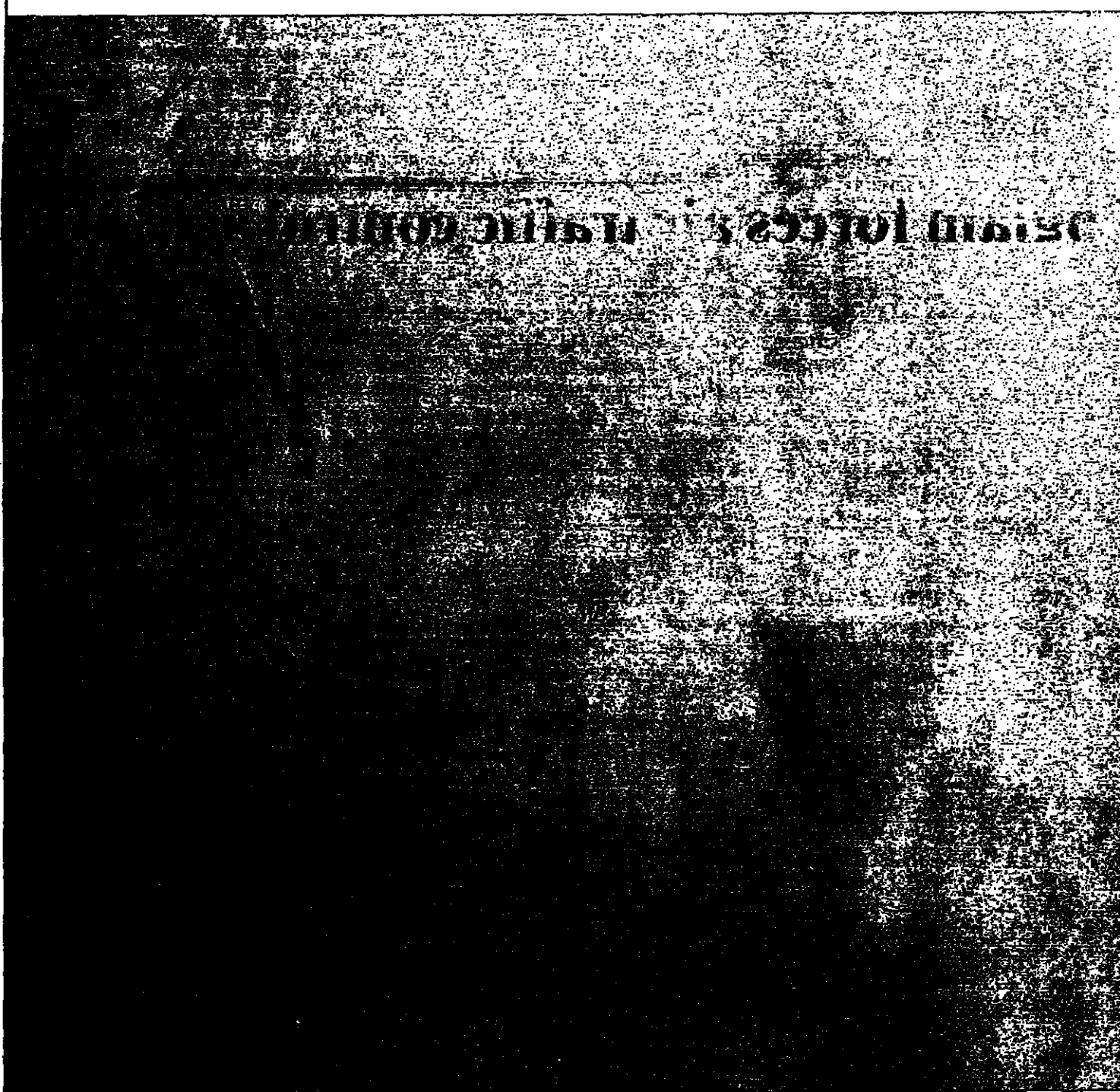
Police interviewed the man's son about the shooting near Fleetley, Hampshire, but he was released without charge.

Malcolm Stokes, 45, a father of three, was hit twice in the left shoulder after a shotgun was fired through the rear window of the car in the early hours of Saturday.

Cheryl King, 19, was unhurt and ran to a nearby house to raise the alarm. Mr Stokes's wife Nicola was being comforted by relatives yesterday at their home in Hungerford, Berkshire.

Jeremy Stokes, 23, who gave himself up for questioning about the shooting of his father, was later said to have been eliminated from the inquiry. He was released on police bail.

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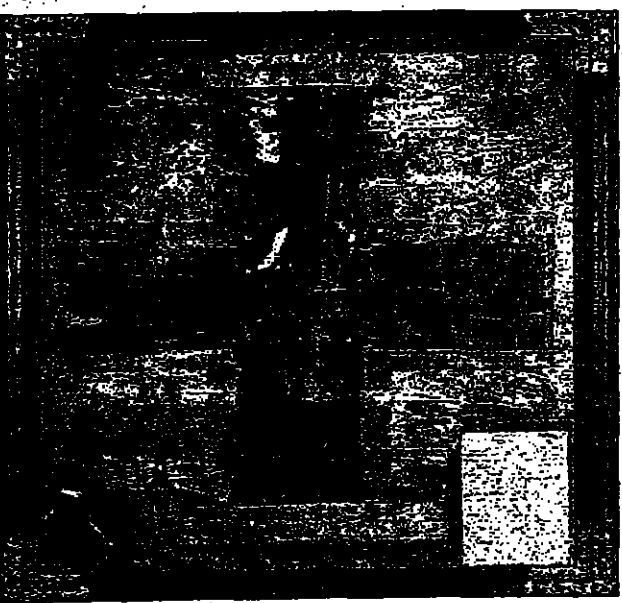
What's more, HP's latest LaserJet printer is fully networkable, able to print data at network speed with an HP designed modular I/O. And with the MV it can connect to more than 12 network operating systems through JetDirect

servers, allowing you to track printer and job status information remotely.

Couple all this with the outstanding print quality (600 dpi, Ret and microfine toner) reliability and compatibility you've come to expect from HP, and you've got two printers no busy office should be without.

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HEWLETT-PACKARD



Von Richthofen (1892-1918) and the Balkan Cross cut from his Fokker triplane

Black Cross from Baron's plane to be sold at auction

BY JOHN SHAW

A BALKAN Cross painted on the side of Baron Manfred von Richthofen's red Fokker triplane is to be auctioned.

The sight of the markings brought fear to young British fighter pilots over the trenches of France and Belgium in the First World War.

The Red Baron shot down 80 planes before he was killed in a dual operation by a Canadian pilot and Australian ground troops in April 1918. Soldiers rushed from the trenches to cut a souvenir from the fabric fuselage with their bayonets.

The black Balkan Cross with its white border, measuring 22in across, was salvaged by an infantryman and later given to an Ameri-

can doctor. His son is now selling the souvenir at Phillips in London on November 16 and the auctioneers believe it could fetch about £100,000.

Richard O'Callaghan, the firm's expert, said: "Naturally, there has been considerable interest from many quarters — private collectors and museums alike. Undoubtedly the keenest interest has been shown by the Americans, the Germans and the Canadians."

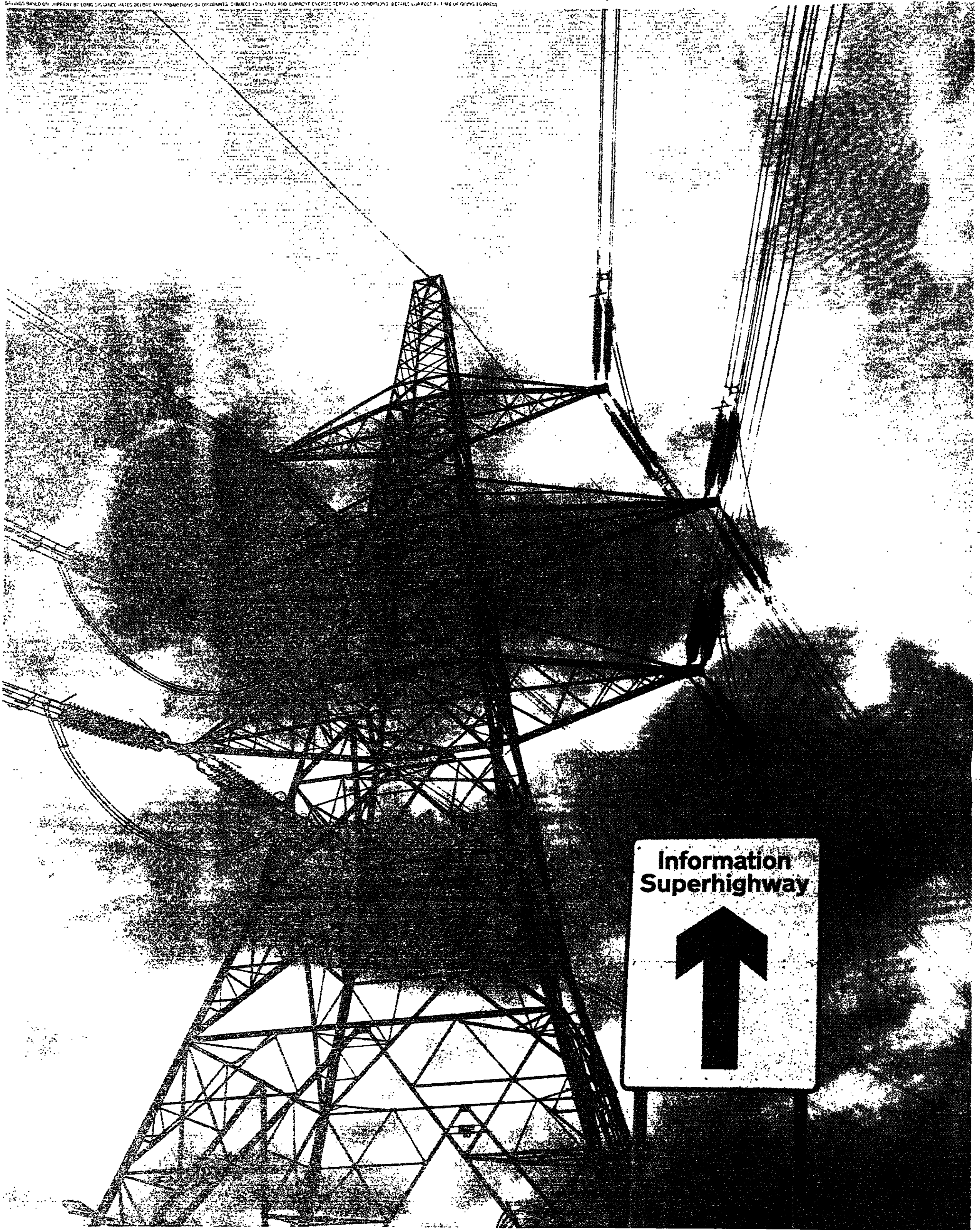
Von Richthofen's aircraft were distinctive since he insisted they were all painted red in honour of the infantry. The national insignia was on each wing and the fuselage. Pieces of the plane depicting the other crosses are in

museums. The engine is in the Imperial War Museum, London, and the left insignia are in the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Ottawa.

The piece being auctioned in London is the last to be accounted for and the first to go under the hammer.

Discolouration and flaking of the white cross borders shows the changes made when the straight sided cross was applied over the previously marked iron cross when the new type of national insignia was introduced in March 1918.

Alex Innes, an aviation historian of the First World War, has examined the fabric and confirmed it comes from the Red Baron's aircraft.



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Prison staff suspected of aiding IRA escape

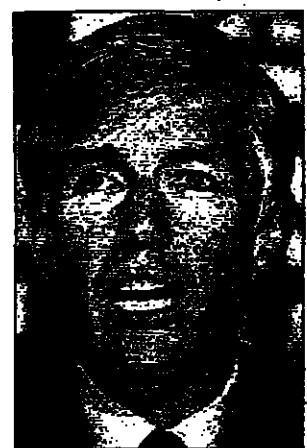
By Stewart Tandler and Lucy Berrington

A CORRUPT prison officer may have been responsible for helping IRA prisoners to plan their failed escape from top-security Whitemoor prison, it was admitted last night.

Officials investigating the attempted breakout and the discovery of Semtex explosives among inmates' personal belongings confirmed that the possible involvement of prison staff was "being seriously considered".

Police working at the Cambridgeshire prison said that inquiries were being concentrated at the moment on Whitemoor itself. "There has been corruption within the police so it is not impossible for it to happen within the prison service with its 38,000 officers," one official said.

There are 300 officers at Whitemoor and many were recruited locally when the prison opened three years ago. The Prison Officers' Association has complained about the use of inexperienced officers in a prison that houses some of the most difficult and dangerous prisoners in the country. Officers there do not receive any special training.



Lewis: prisons chief who is under siege

When the discovery of the Semtex was announced, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that on the advice of Sir John Woodcock, a former Chief Inspector of Constabulary, searches were being stepped up at maximum-security prisons and would include not only prisoners and their visitors but staff. All the would-be fugitives served time in other prisons.

Yesterday Sir James Hennessy, another former Chief Inspector of Prisons, said on BBC Radio's *The World This Weekend* that the IRA's prisoners often had considerable outside help, but "as we found at the Maze, staff can be intimidated and threatened".

Failings by a prison officer would relieve some of the pressure on the Home Secretary, and Derek Lewis, the director-general of the Prison Service, over the security debacle at Whitemoor, but critics will point there were many warnings of danger. To add to the troubles of the beleaguered service, three low-risk prisoners from Highpoint jail at Stroud, escaped on Saturday night. An inquiry has started.

Senior Tories continued to rally around Mr Howard at the weekend. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and Mr Howard's predecessor at the Home Office, blamed the prison reform lobby for causing public disquiet at the criminal justice system.

"The people who ought to be in the firing line are the people who have had a more misguided approach in the perfectly reasonable name of enlightened liberalism over the past ten years or so."

Sir George Gardiner, leader of the backbench Tory right, also denied that there was any pressure on Mr Howard to go.



A steam train yesterday marks the passing of Dover Western Docks station, formerly Dover Marine, below. Dover Marine in its heyday



March of time defeats station stirred by the bugles in war

THE railway station whose name spelt hope and home to British servicemen in two world wars has fallen victim to the Channel Tunnel.

From Flanders to Dunkirk, soldiers dreamt of Dover Marine. In the First World War the station loaded 1,250,000 wounded men on to 3,000 ambulance trains, in

the second it processed 300,000 exhausted survivors of the British Expeditionary Force driven into the sea by advancing Nazis.

In more peaceable times the great, rich and the fashionable stepped from the luxury of the Golden Arrow Pullman at Dover Marine on their way to the Continent.

Today the once-great terminus on the Western Docks closes, rendered redundant by Eurostar trains.

British Rail will mothball the cathedral-like train shed and its ornate booking hall, opened in 1914. As a listed building, there are thoughts of reviving it as a terminal for cruise ship passengers.

Students fear new tuition charges

By John O'Leary and Kathryn Knight

UNIVERSITY vice-chancellors will consider proposals to charge students "top-up" tuition fees when they begin their annual residential meeting in Birmingham tomorrow.

At present, most students have their fees paid by local authorities, but many vice-chancellors see an extra charge as the only realistic source of extra money to improve facilities and safeguard standards.

The proposals coincide with a survey showing that students are seriously concerned about financing their courses. The Co-Operative Bank survey at Manchester University found that 87 per cent of female students and 70 per cent of males were "very" or "quite" concerned about how they would finance their courses and were convinced they would end up in debt.

A spokesman for the bank said that many of the students were worried about budgeting grant cheques and parental contributions and were more concerned that they would mismanage their finances than squander them.

Students wanted specific guidelines from banks and colleges on how to budget. "They complained that while they all received a great deal of sex education, they did not receive any equivalent financial education."

Education, page 37

Serial monogamy becomes way of life in Europe

By Jeremy Laurence
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEANS are turning to serial monogamy as a way of life, with the romantic ideal of a lifelong union sealed by marriage diminishing in most countries, according to a new report. Many adults' lives follow a pattern in which couples cohabit, marry, divorce and remarry.

More than half the adult population in Europe is married and only

one in 20 is divorced or separated, according to latest census figures.

Since 1960 cohabitation, divorce and remarriage have increased sharply across the European Union. A comparison of British families with their European counterparts published today by the Family Policy Studies Centre shows that the UK has the highest divorce rate in Europe — three divorces per 1,000 population in 1991 — but also the highest rate of remarriage — a

quarter of all marriages. The number of remarriages has almost doubled in the last 30 years across Europe and now accounts for 15 out of 100 marriages. In the UK, one in four divorcing couples are giving marriage another chance. In Denmark, divorcing couples are losing faith in marriage and the proportion of remarriages is falling. Danes are now more likely to cohabit than marry a second time.

The rise of cohabitation has

changed the nature of relationships in Europe. A quarter of those who are currently single have cohabited in the past and a sixth of those who are married cohabited before marriage. In some countries, such as Sweden and Denmark, pre-marital cohabitation is virtually the norm.

In France and Britain a growing minority of young cohabiting couples are having children, whereas in Germany and The Netherlands cohabitation is usually child-free. Near-

ly one in three children is now born outside wedlock in Britain, which has the highest proportion of lone parents. It was the only country where the number of teenagers having babies increased from 1980 to 1990.

The report says that the rising number of women in paid work is "one of the most significant developments in the family". In 1991 half of all mothers had jobs, more than a quarter of them full time, compared with two in five in 1985.

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Why the Tories should learn from American conservatives struggling with new ideas out of office

In opposition: the hard way to learn lessons of power

After a difficult two years, some Conservatives have decided that there is a good deal to be said for a spell in opposition. They argue that there is a dividend that compensates for lack of office. Conservatives in opposition would be able to establish a greater sense of purpose and solve problems that the Tory MP David Willetts, former head of the Centre for Policy Studies, has described as "ultimately intellectual".

Such Conservatives should review the experience of the Republicans in the United States since the defeat of George Bush. They will see much of the debate that would unfold here and they will see that it has solved little. The Republicans are still struggling with the difficult intellectual problems they faced in the late 1980s. Opposition has brought no magical clarity.

For some Republicans the task seemed relatively simple. It was to restore the central message of the Reagan revolution — the message that "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem".

These retrenchment conservatives believe that limiting government not only increases freedom but also restores a sense of personal responsibility to the poor. "Relimiting government" should be the heart of the conservative programme. That is the argument of the book *Dead Right*, by David Frum, editor of the *Wall Street Journal*. Frum is scornful of the way attention has been "wandering to the newer and fresher topics of race and sex". He explains why that has happened by arguing that the attempt to cut expenditure in the 1980s had proven such a failure that conservatives "shamelessly felt that they had better find something else to talk about".

This points to a paradox: the first step in the argument that

Daniel Finkelstein, author of 'Conservatives in Opposition — Republicans in the United States', considers whether the Conservative Party in Britain could benefit from a spell in opposition

Republicanism should be based on a renewed Reagan revolution is an acceptance that the revolution did not really happen.

The prominent retrenchment conservative William Kristol, once adviser to Dan Quayle, argues for a "politics of liberty" that restructures institutions in order to defeat the vested interest groups that act as roadblocks to "relimiting government". Conservatives, he writes, should be particularly interested in proposals "that are radical in the sense that they seek to change our political system as

a whole to make it more supportive of limited government". The problem with relimiting government may not be institutional but political. Voters simply do not want the policies of retrenchment.

Frum accepts this, but his response is weak. He argues that Reagan's election victory was won only by adopting Jack Kemp's strategy of concentrating on popular tax cuts and hoping growth would accommodate extra spending. Since that did not work, all he has to offer is defiance. Republicans should plan to scrap the welfare state, "practise honesty

and pay the price". Those who do not find such an approach particularly appealing have set to work on an alternative — empowerment conservatism. The pioneers, Jack Kemp, Newt Gingrich and Vin Weber, who formed the campaign group Empower America, argue that Republi-

cans must have an electoral strategy that sets out to capture new constituencies and build a new coalition that includes ethnic minorities and the poor. They say public demand for social services must be met, but need not be met, as Jim Pinkerton, the former Bush aide, puts it, "by hiring bureaucrats".

Empowerment would use market structures and incentives to advance social outcomes. Welfare benefits would be linked to behaviour, provision of public housing would be privatised, the unemployed given incentives and training to work. One assault on empowerment conservatism is obvious, that it is simply a new, still inefficient way of spending taxpayer's money. Another criticism is that perhaps Kemp's optimism about the basic values of the poor is mistaken. This is the starting point of cultural conservatism.

Since the 1992 Republican convention, conservative talk about values has often been tied by commentators to the rise of the Religious Right. Yet many ideas ascribed to the Religious Right, such as opposition to abortion, have long-standing support well beyond the fundamentalists. More importantly, although there has been a growth in the interest that Republicans take in cultural and family issues, that is by no means exclusively the result of a rise in Christian

fundamentalism. The cultural conservatives have developed a powerful case. However, their legislative programme remains weak. Retrenchment conservatives also fear the cultural argument will be used as the basis for a programme for intrusive government, pursuing "moral" rather than "social" policy.

The most basic criticism, however, is electoral. Pinkerton put it well in an article, *A Conservative Argument for Gay Marriage*. "The real battle is against taxes and bureaucracy, and conservatives shouldn't open up a second front against potential allies."

The internal challenge to Bush in 1992 did not come from any of these groupings. Pat Buchanan developed nationalist conservatism, a programme of his own. He returned to old right-wing themes discarded in the post-war era. Buchanan took on too many modern conservative positions at once and his campaign faltered.

Has opposition helped to clarify conservatism and the Republican platform? It

obvious that it has not. First, each strand of conservatism had emerged before the fall of Bush and opposition has not helped to resolve their problems. If anything, opposition has made it easier to gloss over these problems. An idea in opposition has to capture the imagination but it does not have to work.

Second, it has proven more difficult to avoid divisive issues: abortion poses a greater threat to unity in opposition.

agenda

where the distractions are less and the instinct to unite weaker.

Finally, opposition has not helped the Republicans to draw together the strands of thought. Indeed, it may have hindered the process by increasing the attraction of distinctiveness to the various leadership contenders.

Yet it is obvious the different parts of conservatism developed

conservatives need the electoral strategy and strategy for public services advanced by empowerment advocates, who in turn need to limit government to avoid the deficit crisis. Cultural conservatism guards against naive empowerment schemes but needs a legislative programme and the retrenchment conservative concern to avoid bossy government. All conservatives will need the populism and sense of national identity of Buchanan if they are to woo back Perot votes successfully.

This synthesis is possible and necessary in Britain too but the lesson from the United States is that "a spell in opposition" is not a cure for anything. If opposition comes, it will not help to solve intellectual problems. Conservatives may as well set to work on these straight away.

□ *Conservatives in Opposition — Republicans in the United States* by Daniel Finkelstein (available from Social Market Foundation, 20 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9AT, London SW1H 9AT, 01-834-7600)



ROBERT DOLE, 71, is the "anti-vision" candidate for the 1996 Republican nomination. He believes opposition should concentrate on opposing and, as the *New Republic* put it, "he'd rather unite Republicans around a vote in Congress than an overarching idea". When one Senator tried to augment Dole's battle against Clinton's budget with an alternative budget, he was firmly put down. Dole's position as the leading Republican in Washington means he must be taken seriously as a Presidential candidate. He is also a very adept leader.



JACK KEMP is the leader of empowerment conservatism. He is a former football star, congressman, and Cabinet minister with responsibility for Housing and Urban Development. In the 1970s Kemp developed Reagan's supply side strategy of cutting taxes and helped to create a new constituency for the Right. He believes empowerment conservatism will do the same in the 1990s and wants the Republicans to reach out to the urban poor. His friends see him as a front runner for the Presidency. His critics think he rambles.



WILLIAM BENNETT is America's most important cultural conservative. As Reagan's Secretary for Education and Bush's drug czar, he acted, as he put it, as "a lightning rod for criticism" in a campaign for what he regards as mainstream values. His *Book of Virtues*, full of morally uplifting tales aimed at children, has been a commercial success. He sees himself as a public educator. Others see him as the perfect Presidential candidate but he has never held elected office and recently ruled himself out for 1996.



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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Third defeats

Nigel Short and Michael Adams each lost their third game in the PCA World Championship semi-finals in Spain.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Michael Adams

Ray Lopez
1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 a6
4 Ba4 Nf6
5 O-O Be7
6 Re1 d5
7 Bc3 d6
8 c3 O-O
9 N3 Be6
10 g4 Bxb3
11 axb3 exd4
12 cxd4 Nc4
13 e5 Nc4
14 Nc3 N5
15 axd6 Bxd6
16 Nxe4 dxe4
17 Rxe4 Qd5
18 Rg4 h5
19 Rf4 Nf4
20 Bc3 Nf4
21 Qb1 Qc3
22 Rf5 Qc2
23 Qxc2 Rxc2
24 Rxe6 Rf8
25 Rg5 Rf5
26 Rxe6 Rf4
27 Nxd4 Rf4
28 Rf6 R7
29 Rxb5 R4
30 Kh2 R2
31 K3 R7
32 Rf3 R8
33 Rg5 d5
34 b4 R4
35 Rf6 R4
36 Rf6
Black resigns

Diagram of final position

8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
a b c d e f g h

White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Nigel Short
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 d4 cxd4
3 Nc3 Nf6
4 Nf3 g6
5 Be2 Bg7
6 Nd3 Be7
7 O-O O-O
8 Bg5 Bc6
9 Nc5 Bg5
10 Nc5 Rf8
11 Bc3 Rf8

14 Bg4 Kh8
15 c3 Bf6
16 Nf6 Rf7
17 Bxe6 Bx6
18 Qd3 Rf7
19 Rf1 Nxe5
20 Nxe5 Qxb6
21 Nf4 Qd7
22 Qe2 B5
23 Nxd6 Rf6
24 Rf3 Qb6
25 g3 Rf8
26 Rf1 Rf8
27 Rf1 Rf8
28 Qc1 Rf8
29 Bc3 Qxc6
30 Rxe3 Qc5
31 Rf3 Qc5
32 Qe2 h6
33 Kf2 e5
34 K3 Qc4
35 Rf2 Qc4
36 K4 Rf7
37 Qd2 Kf7
38 Rf7 Qc8
39 Rf6 Qc4
40 Qd3 Qc3
41 Rf3 Rf7
42 Rf6 Rf7
43 Rf6 Rf7
44 Rf2 Kf6
45 Rf3 Kf7
46 Rf6 Rf7
47 Kf3 h5
48 Rf6 Rf7
49 Q4 Rf7
50 Kf4 Kf6
51 h5 Rf7
52 K4 Rf4
53 Rf6 Rf4
54 Rf5 Kf6
55 Rf5+ Kf6
56 Rf4 Rf7
57 Rf4 Rf7
58 Kf5 Kf5
59 Kf4 Rf7
60 Kf5 Kf5
61 Rf4+ Kf5
62 Kf4+ Kf5
63 Rf4 Rf5
64 Rf7 Rf5
65 Rf7 Rf5
66 Kf5 Rf5
67 Kf2 Rf5
68 Rf5 Kf6
69 Kf3 Rf6
70 Kf4 Rf6
71 B5 Rf6
72 Rf6 Kf7
73 Kf5 Rf3
74 Kf7 Rf3
75 Rf4 Rf3
76 B5 Rf3
77 Rf4+ Kf5
78 Kf5
Black resigns

Diagram of final position

8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
a b c d e f g h

Winning Move, page 44

DORMER on BRIDGE

By ALBERT DORMER, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

♠K106
♥2
♦QJ1074
♣10855

♠Q873
♥K5
♦K932
♣K94

♠J62
♥QJ9874
♦A6
♣J7

South is well worth the final raise, since a hand with three aces will usually play above its nominal value in terms of points.

South wins the first trick and leads the ♠Q, losing to the king. East cashes the ♠K and exits with a trump. What now?

Solution: To take the club finesse would not be a good idea. Here, you would lose to the king, and although you could later discard a spade, there would still be a spade trick to lose.

You would be no better off if the club finesse succeeded. Now you would have to lose two spade tricks.

The best chance to make the contract is to find East with the ♠K, not more than twice guarded.

Win East's trump return in dummy and lead a low club from the table. If East goes in with the king, you can discard two spades on the clubs.

If East ducks, you win with the jack, lead a club to the ace, and ruff a club, establishing the queen for ten tricks.

Bridge may become Olympic discipline

FROM ALBERT DORMER IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

THE announcement that the International Olympic Committee is to consider accepting bridge as an Olympic discipline has delighted the electronics giants sponsoring the high-tech infrastructure to the World Bridge Championships in Albuquerque.

They are convinced that competitive bridge is the game of the future, as it can make almost unlimited use of electronic technology to enlarge its appeal. The IOC move has spurred the World Bridge Federation to quiz more than 100 experts on what competitors want from future tournaments.

One question was: "If all WBF championships had to be held in just one city, which city would you select?" The preferred venue was Las Vegas, which regularly hosts the biggest tournaments. But London, which has never host-

ed a world bridge championship, came next.

Exceptional concentration was named as the prime quality needed to become a bridge champion. The experts named their favourite games other than bridge as golf, tennis, computer games and backgammon.

And how do experts unwind after a heavy session? Drinking was voted the favourite way to relax, with sleeping second.

□ The British women's team in the World Bridge Championships, captained by Gill Casey, moved into the quarter-finals of the McConnell Cup after a storming recovery in the Round of 16 against the strong French squad. They represent Britain's only hope of a team medal after the eclipse of our two contending formations in the Round of 32 in the Open event.

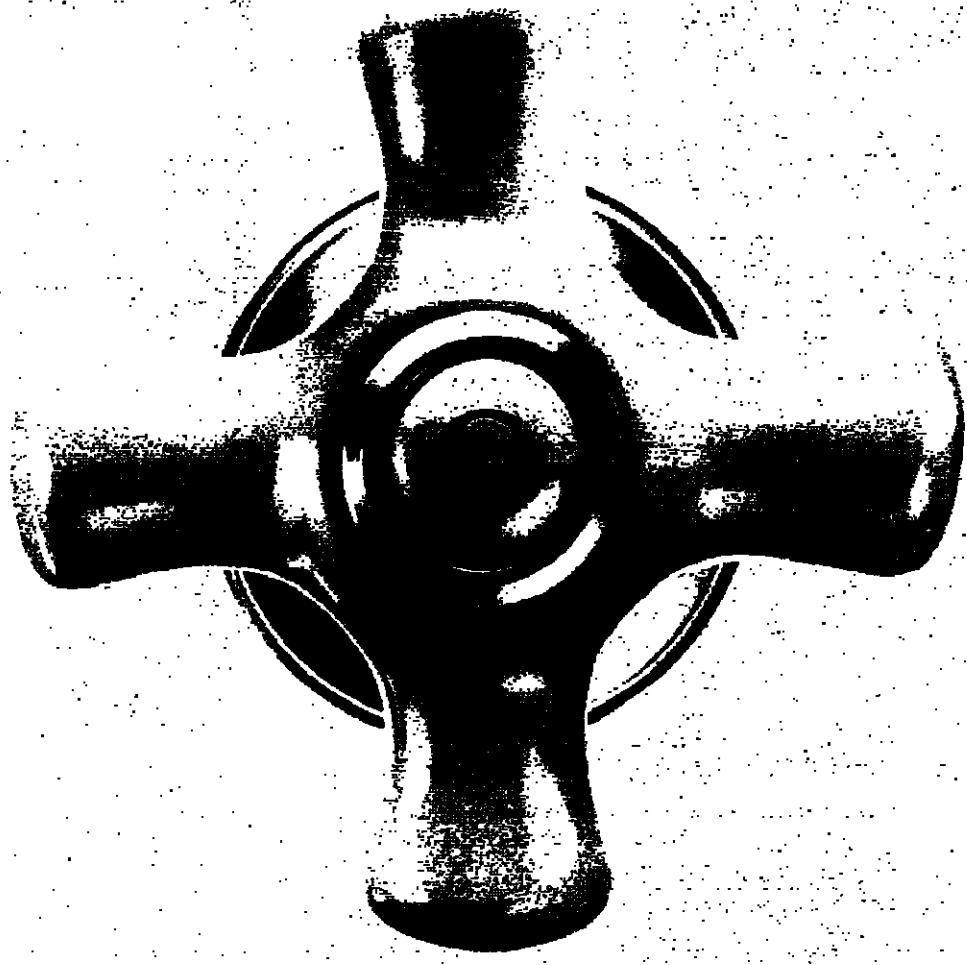
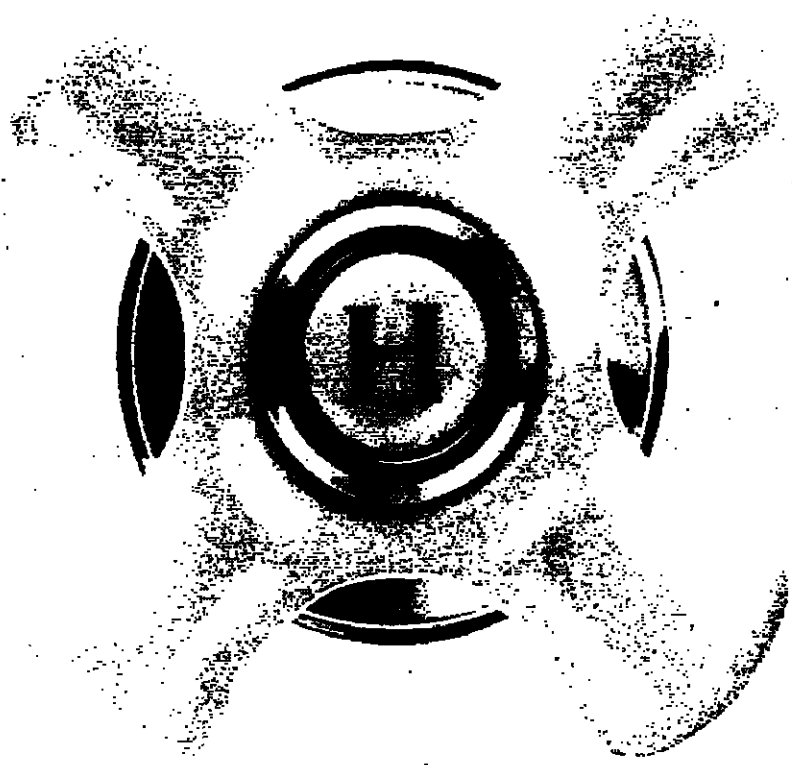
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QC supports campaign group and demands tougher sanctions against motorists who cause death

Bereaved families seek life sentence on killer drivers

By TIM JONES AND KEVIN EASON

MOTORISTS found guilty of causing death on the roads should be automatically banned for at least ten years, according to relatives of road crash victims. If the drivers are drunk, they should be banned for life.

Nicholas Atkinson, QC, says motorists convicted of causing death by dangerous driving should face penalties up to life imprisonment.

Mr Atkinson's call for a tougher sentencing regime follows a case in Swindon in which he was involved: a motorist was jailed for five years after killing five children who were sitting on a park bench. He said: "One year for each child, how can that be appropriate?"

His plea for a road death to be treated like any other violent crime and tried before a senior judge in the Crown Court echoes the concerns of hundreds of bereaved relatives who feel cheated by a system that they consider favours the guilty driver and



Atkinson: critical of prosecution policy

ignores their grief and suffering.

Another eminent QC, Anthony Scrivenor, supports their view that the Crown Prosecution Service does not always treat road deaths seriously enough. He claims that the CPS often goes for a lesser charge in a lower court

because the chances of a conviction are better and because it is cheaper.

More than 300 relatives, frustrated by what they see as lenient sentencing and lack of consultation and support have joined RoadPeace, a campaigning organisation that held its first conference in Leeds at the weekend.

One of the delegates, Caroline Williams, said she was not even called to give evidence at the trial of the driver of the lorry that crashed head-on into her husband's car, killing him instantly and causing her severe injuries.

Her husband, Dr Jim Williams, was one of 4,229 people killed on Britain's roads in 1992.

Mrs Williams, of Leatherhead, Surrey, lost an eye but recovered sufficiently to give evidence at the inquest, which recorded a verdict of accidental death. She expected to be a vital witness at the ensuing court case.

She said: "I was told by the



Carol Williams, who missed the court case involving the lorry driver whose vehicle killed her husband Jim, right

police it was unnecessary to attend the court and assumed it would be a preliminary hearing which would set a date for the trial proper.

"When I learnt the case had been heard by magistrates and the driver acquitted of driving without due care and attention it was the lowest

point of the whole episode. I felt I had let my husband down by not being there. The police said the Crown Prosecution Service had gone for the lesser charge, rather than one of dangerous driving, as they were more likely to secure a conviction."

She said drivers convicted of causing death should lose their licences for up to ten years and never be allowed to drive again if their crime was caused by drink.

Brigitte Chaudhry, who helped to found RoadPeace after her son was killed by a driver who ignored red traffic lights, believes the law is

fundamentally flawed because the CPS, when drawing up a charge, considers how a motorist has been driving rather than the death caused.

She said: "We need to seek a redefinition of 'behaviour potentially endangering others' which should be considered as fully criminally negligent."

How child casualties could be spared

By KEVIN EASON AND TIM JONES

THOUSANDS of children walking home from school this winter will become statistics on casualty records.

Joining the Continent on Central European Time (CET) would prevent 140 deaths, reduce serious injuries by 520 and slight injuries by 1,500, at a saving to Britain of £200 million a year.

Dr Mayer Hillman of the Policy Studies Institute, who pioneered the research, said yesterday: "The argument is always wheeled out that there would be an increase in accidents in the mornings. But something like 85 per cent of casualties occur in the evening hours so a change would have a much bigger impact."

A hundred MPs are seeking a switch to lighter winter evenings. A two-year trial was abandoned 24 years ago.

Edmund King of the RAC said: "We need more light at a time when there is a lot of traffic about and thousands of children making their way home. We can only hope for a government change of mind."

Potent mix of speed and hazards on country roads exacts a heavy toll

THE MOST dangerous roads in Britain are not high-speed motorways but suburban and rural routes that lull drivers into a false sense of security (Kevin Eason writes).

While there has been huge spending to make motorways and town centre roads safer, resources have bypassed thousands of miles of A roads, where accidents account for as many as nine out of ten road deaths, according to new research.

That finding was reinforced by the death of five people in a high-speed head-on crash on the A41 Oxford to Aylesbury road yesterday. Two men and two women, believed to be in their twenties, died instantly when their Ford Escort collided with a Ford Sierra near Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire. The male driver of the Sierra, believed to be a prison officer returning to work, was cut from the wreckage and flown to John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, but died later.

The accident happened on an open stretch close to a right-hand turning, on a stretch where there have been

FATALITIES AND INJURIES

The highest number of deaths on Britain's roads was 9,169 in 1941, during the wartime blackout, and the lowest was 3,814 in 1993. The 1993 road fatalities can be broken down into the following categories: pedestrians 1,241; cyclists 186; car users 1,760; others (including lorry drivers) 627. Of all traffic accident injuries in 1993, 203,638 involved males and 95,167 females. Road deaths by country in 1992, the latest year with comparative figures available were: United States 39,235; Japan 14,836; Germany 10,631; France 9,900; Spain 7,818; Hungary 2,101; Ireland 415; Norway 325.

many accidents in recent years.

The increasing number of fatalities on A roads that criss-cross Cambridgeshire has led the county council to set up a three-year study with the AA's Foundation for Road Safety Research. Its task is to discover why, at a time when road deaths are generally falling, a rising number of accidents is concentrated on roads that were once considered quiet backwaters.

The initial findings by Dr Wyn Hughes, who heads the research team, show that accidents on A roads

account for 44 per cent of all road crashes in Cambridgeshire. But the consequences of crashes on single carriageway roads are more severe than on motorways or urban routes.

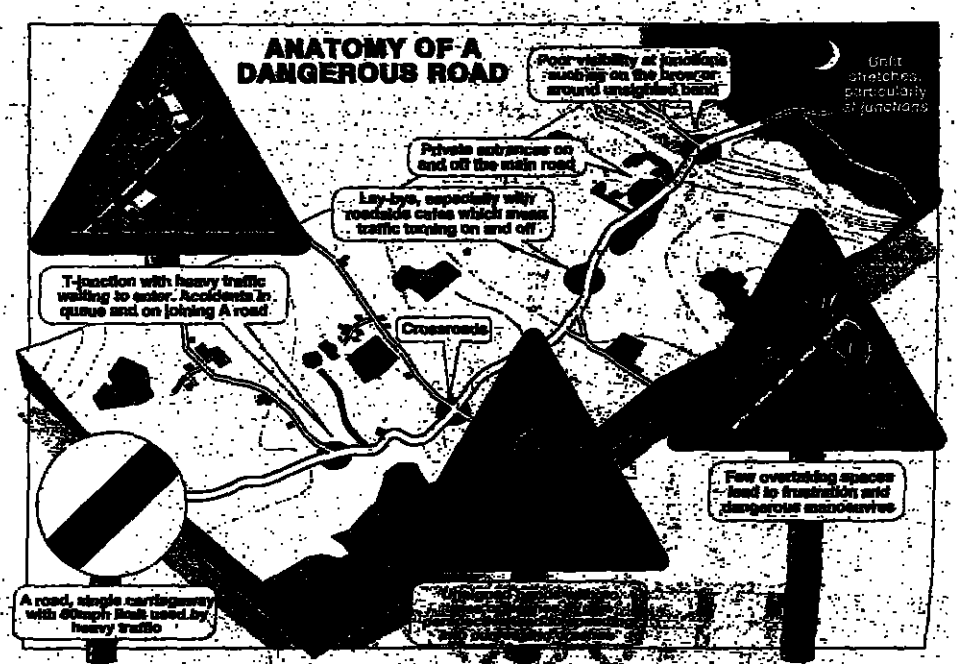
Drivers in town centres are likely to be travelling more slowly while motorway traffic is moving in the same direction. But cars and lorries travelling at high speeds on single carriageway roads, often driven by people who are familiar with the route through suburbs or quiet villages, are at their most vulnerable. The research, carried

out between 1988 and 1992, shows that there are two fatal and serious injuries per 100 million vehicle kilometres of motorways but 15 for built-up major roads and 13 for minor roads. The average for all roads is 10.

Dr Hughes said: "We have a situation in which traffic is being exposed to almost every kind of hazard on A roads and yet is travelling at motorway speeds in many cases. There is poor overtaking, vehicles joining from laybys or side roads into traffic moving very quickly and often unable to stop. It is a potent mix, which is obviously carrying a severe penalty."

The Department of Transport found that 28 per cent of motorcycles and 7 per cent of cars broke the 60mph speed limit on single-carriage A roads, 14 per cent of buses and coaches broke their 50mph limit and 63 per cent of articulated lorries were travelling at more than their 40mph limit.

In Dr Hughes's anatomy of a dangerous road, junctions were a factor in 76 per cent of accidents.



Condon attends first ceremony of police body for ethnic minorities

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first black and Asian police association will be launched today in a private ceremony attended by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Several hundred officers and civilian staff from the ethnic minorities who work in the Metropolitan Police will attend the ceremony at Scotland Yard with high-ranking officers. The association is being formed by London's two most senior black officers and a senior civilian worker.

The association has been founded at a time when there is continuing concern about the level of recruitment of officers from the ethnic minorities and levels of wastage. In

1993-94, the Metropolitan Police recruited 1051 new officers and 74, or 7 per cent, were from ethnic backgrounds.

The latest report of the Chief Inspector of Constabulary this summer highlighted unacceptable levels of prejudice and racist exchanges within forces across the country. Senior officers often failed to act and recruiting levels were dropping.

Proposed this summer, the association will cover black and Asian members of the Metropolitan Police. Although the Police Federation, which represents junior police ranks, has expressed concern at the potentially divisive nature of the new association, it has the

blessing of Sir Paul and his staff.

The association is supported by the Commission for Racial Equality and intends plans to build a proper support network for black and Asian officers, work towards equal opportunities, improve relations between the police and communities and help to raise recruitment of officers from the ethnic minorities as well as cutting back on wastage.

The Metropolitan Police was the first force to recruit a black officer in the 1960s and now has 679 officers from ethnic minorities out of a total strength of over 28,000. The two highest ranking officers are detective chief inspectors.

Across the country, the highest ranking officer is a chief superintendent in the Leicestershire force.

Black and ethnic officers in London first got together at a special seminar organised by Scotland Yard at Bristol University three years ago. The seminar threw up many of the difficulties faced by the officers and as a result a support system has been created by the Metropolitan Police to help new officers.

In the United States black police associations are quite widespread, often in the large urban forces where black patrolmen and detectives make up sizeable proportions of the workforce.

Pioneer fought racism on the inside

By STEWART TENDLER



Norwell Roberts was the first black officer

SIR Paul Condon often points out that he joined the force on the same day as the very first black officer.

Twenty-seven years after their days at Hendon training school, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and Norwell Roberts will meet again today at the formation of the first black and Asian police association. Mr Roberts is now a 48-year-old detective sergeant in Golders Green, northwest London.

In 1967, during interviews for the job, senior officers asked Mr Roberts how he would cope with a drunk who called him a "black bastard". He said he would ignore it. In the event, trouble came

not from drunks but police. Mr Roberts went to Bow Street and in his early career faced blatant racism in the force. "The people outside compensated and made it all worthwhile," he said.

As Mr Roberts patrolled in Covent Garden one day, an officer leaned out of the window of a police car, and hurled racial abuse at him. When he complained to a senior officer, he was told: "What do you want me to do about it?"

He found matchsticks in the locks of his car and the buttons ripped off his uniform. On the beat, other officers would talk to him but not back in the station. He was cold-shouldered and any

officer linked to him was treated the same.

He said: "I stayed because I had something to prove. If I had not done it, no one would have. They realised I was not leaving and came round."

In 1972 he began CID work in the West End. He joined the Vice Squad and became a sergeant in 1976, working in north London, and has operated undercover. He has also lectured at the national staff college on his experiences.

Things still need to improve for black officers, but Mr Roberts said that these days they did not suffer the way he had. If he had known what he was facing in 1967 he would never have joined.

Explosion scare as warplane drops dud anti-tank rocket

A MAN walking his dog outside an RAF base yesterday found a rocket believed to have been dropped by a warplane.

The area, grassy common land a few hundred yards from RAF Northolt, was cordoned off by police as an explosives expert identified the anti-tank missile.

Fears of an explosion close

to the base and houses in Ealing, west London, ended when the rocket was identified as a harmless training missile.

A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said: "It probably fell from a military plane. Police are liaising with the Ministry of Defence to trace where it came from and how it happened."

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Mladic hints at threat to UN force

By TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BOSNIAN Serbs yesterday stepped up their campaign of intimidation against United Nations forces in response to a Nato air strike and the imposition of tighter sanctions by the Security Council.

General Ratko Mladic, the commander of the Bosnian Serb army, in a veiled threat to the UN peacekeeping force, told its commanders that he could not "take responsibility" for the safety of UN operations on his territory.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said food stocks in Sarajevo, where Serb action has cut off aid convoys and forced the UN to suspend its air bridge, would run out in two weeks.

General Mladic's pronouncement, in a letter to French General Bertrand de Lapresle, the UN military commander in former Yugoslavia, was the latest in a series of threats after last week's Nato air strike on a Bosnian Serb tank.

General Mladic said the air raid — "the latest crime for which you and your forces are responsible" — had destroyed houses and damaged a school. The UN said an unoccupied Serb tank was hit in what it called an appropriate response to Serb attacks that injured two peacekeepers.

Last Friday's resolution by the UN Security Council, conditionally easing sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro and tightening them on the Bosnian Serbs, was meanwhile greeted with satisfaction by the Bosnian Serbs. "Serbia has slaughtered an ox for a pound of meat," thundered Momcilo Krajisnik, the Speaker of the Bosnian Serb assembly, who accused the Serbian leadership of President Milosevic of a "cheap betrayal."

Officials in Belgrade said that the resolution easing sanctions was a "good start" and that they hoped that it would soon be followed by moves to dismantle the trade and oil embargo.

Major and Yeltsin hail joint Bosnia initiative

■ The British-Russian plan will focus on ways to stop America lifting the arms ban on the Muslim-led Bosnian government, argues Eve-Ann Prentice, Diplomatic Correspondent

John Major yesterday announced that he and President Yeltsin had agreed a new strategy for reaching a negotiated settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We have set out a political way forward," Mr Major said as the Russian leader left Britain after a weekend at Chequers. The Prime Minister refused to elaborate on details of their new initiative, although it is likely to focus on attempts to prevent the Americans pushing through a lifting of the arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government while broadening the search for a negotiated settlement.

Washington has threatened to lift the arms ban — a prospect which Europe and Russia regard as catastrophic — unless the Bosnian Serbs accept the latest Contact Group peace plan by October 15.

However, closer ties between London and Moscow will make it more difficult for America to rally support for lifting the embargo and is likely to be significant in future international negotiations across a range of issues. The European Union has been worried that America risks

alienating Moscow over the former Yugoslavia, and greater trust between London and Moscow will be seen as an advantage in other European capitals.

"We are again entering a very difficult period in Bosnia," the Prime Minister said. "The point about Bosnia now is that a great deal has been achieved... but it is fragile and uncertain. The greater we can work together, the greater the chances of a lasting settlement."

In what was seen as a reference to Washington's solo push for a lifting of the arms embargo, he added: "It is particularly important for Europe, Russia and the US to stay together at this time."

President Yeltsin, who left Britain for New York to address the General Assembly of the United Nations, is to meet President Clinton later in the week, when he is expected to reinforce Mr Major's pleas for an intensified search for a

negotiated settlement. Although the Prime Minister refused to divulge details of his talks with Mr Yeltsin, the Contact Group has been discussing the possibility of allowing Bosnian Serbs to form some form of confederation with Serbia as part of a peace deal. This would allow the Bosnian Serbs, cornered by their own intransigence over the peace plan, a way out.

The Prime Minister and President Yeltsin repeatedly emphasised the warmth of their informal weekend. A joint press conference at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire yesterday was little short of a mutual admiration society. "We have had this weekend a meeting of an entirely different kind," Mr Major said. "It was useful and it was enjoyable and it was both those things in equal parts and I believe it reflects the relationship that exists between the United Kingdom

and Russia." The Russian leader, who remembers that Mr Major was swift to support him when his political survival was in dire peril during the Russian parliament's rebellion a year ago, said: "I consider we have never had such wonderful relations as exist now between Great Britain and Russia."

While the two leaders spent Saturday consolidating their relationship, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, in discussions at Mr Hurd's Oxfordshire home, were also trying to find a way out of the Bosnian morass.

Earlier, Mr Major disclosed that the two governments would be represented "at a very high level" at each other's VE-Day celebrations next year to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe. British officials said that could mean Mr Yeltsin and Mr Major attending each other's ceremonies, which are taking place a few days apart.

Mr Yeltsin also enthused about the Queen's forthcoming "historic and unique" visit to Russia next month. "It means the most important thing — that is that Russia has firmly and irrevocably entered on the democratic way."

Mr Major and Mr Yeltsin also agreed that they should work together to form a joint approach for next December's Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe meeting, which takes place in Budapest.

Washington: A Russian-American summit opens here tomorrow but with none of the advance razzmatazz that surrounded such meetings during, and at the end of, the Cold War (Ian Brodie writes).

Nonetheless, the eight hours of talks between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin will cover important ground for both countries and their neighbours and allies. Mr Yeltsin will learn first-hand of the West's concern over nuclear materials being smuggled out of Russia and his co-operation will be sought in tightening security around his country's nuclear plants and bases.



The Pope blessing the crowd yesterday at his Castel Gandolfo summer palace

Subdued Pope leads prayers

FROM REUTERS
IN ROME

THE Pope, appearing tired and subdued, led regular public prayers yesterday after a week marked by rising worries about his health, sparked by the postponement of a visit to America and the scaling down of a trip to Sicily.

The Pope, 74, was helped as he took his place at a

reading-desk at a windowed papal summer palace, Castel Gandolfo, southeast of Rome, from where he led the prayers. Several minutes of the faithful heard the Pope speak for about 20 minutes in a monotone. He seemed fatigued as he stood in his scripted speech, muttering some words and looking down at his notes. The Pope's appearance was the first since his health problems were made public last week.

pilgrims cheered and clapped at the end of the prayers, as the Pope was once again helped away from the window.

The US visit, planned for October 20-23, was cancelled because it would have put too much of a strain on his leg, still recovering from bone-replacement surgery after a fall in April. His Sicilian trip, scheduled for November 4-6,



Rose departure rumours denied

SPECULATION is growing that Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, left, the United Nations commander in Bosnia, may be replaced before his one-year appointment ends, according to a report in *The New York Times* yesterday (Michael Evans writes). The paper's Sarajevo correspondent reported that he could be succeeded by Major-General Rupert Smith, Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) at the Ministry of Defence, and Divisional Commander of the British Forces during the Gulf War.

However, the Ministry of Defence last night dismissed the rumours about General Rose, who is on leave in Britain. Although his is a UN appointment, a ministry official said that he was doing an excellent job at the head of the 22,000 UN troops in Bosnia. Recently there have been disagreements between General Rose and Nato commanders over the use of air strikes to punish the Bosnian Serbs.

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FISH & CHIP SHOP Ideally situated in large Fulham residential area SW6 Ref: 94/7080			EAST LONDON Small PUBLISHING COMPANY Specialists in International Literature. Ref: 94/7169			ANTIQUA SHOP Ideally Situated on the Kings Road SW6 Ref: 94/7081			For Sale in London Green Grocers & Health food shop Situated in residential area. Large customers lease built up over 20 years by this family Ref: 94/7124			WEST LONDON DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRETTE Business with 3 One Bedroom Flats (vacant) in Good Residential Area Well Known Local Business Ref: 94/7098			WEST END LONDON Close to Paddington Station SHOP with living accommodation above on 3 floors Expensive storage space in basement Great retail opportunity Ref: 94/7155			Long Established HAND LAUNDRY located NORTH WEST LONDON with select clientele only. Excellent scope for increasing T.O. Ref: 94/7118			Long Established HEALTH FOOD SHOP With an excellent reputation Ideally located in the High Street of a highly sought after village near the Thames in SW London Includes 3 bedrooms flat with separate entrance. Ref: 94/7142			SLOUGH For Sale Well established Heating & Plumbing Merchants situated on very large industrial Estate with many account customers. Good scope for expansion Ref: 94/7123			ESSEX Very successful Hair and Nail Extension business. Prime position. 3 retail outlets. Fully staffed. Ref: 94/7125		
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Carter diplomatic triumphs add to Christopher's woes

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FORMER President Jimmy Carter's intervention in Haiti has reinforced the impression that Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, is ineffective, has lost control of US foreign policy and will soon be returning to his Los Angeles law firm.

As numerous US commentators are pointing out, this was the second time in four months that Mr Carter has assumed the role of *de facto* Secretary of State to defuse international tension, unilaterally amending US policy in the process. In June he negotiated an eleven-hour agreement with North Korea's late President Kim Il Sung to freeze his country's nuclear weapons programme. The *Los Angeles Times* further disclosed this week that it was Mr Carter, not the State Department, who persuaded President Castro to negotiate an end to last month's Cuban refugee crisis.

Although Mr Christopher denies it, White House officials say the Secretary of State opposed Mr Carter's mission to Port-au-Prince. He was overruled by President Clinton, just as his strong objections to admitting Gerry Adams to the US last January were rejected.

Mr Carter and Mr Christopher were once mutual admirers. When Mr Christopher was second-in-command at the State Department during the Carter Administration the former President described him as "the finest public servant I have ever known".

Now, however, the pair are trying to iron out their differences. On Saturday Mr Christopher travelled to Mr Carter's home in Plains, Georgia, for a chat described by Mr Christopher as "more private and personal than official in character".

Mr Christopher said it was important "to make sure that we're proceeding in a sound way in the future", a comment

indicating that the two men would be airing their misunderstandings.

Over Haiti, "the *de jure* Secretary of State was humiliated", declared William Safire, the *New York Times* columnist. Mr Christopher "ought to resign from sheer embarrassment", said Larry Korb of Washington's Brookings Institution.

Asked yesterday whether he felt usurped, Mr Christopher replied that his plate was "very full" and he was "very glad to have help from people the President has asked to



Christopher: may stand down in November

Washington: William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, revealed that Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the exiled Haitian President, is unlikely to return until after October 15, the American deadline for the junta to step down (Jan Brodie writes).

Meanwhile, there is growing pressure in Congress for Mr Aristide to ask the United Nations to suspend immediately the Haitian trade embargo and to urge the parliament to grant amnesty as promised to General Raoul Cédras and his inner coterie of advisers.

help". Even before this week Mr Christopher's survival was in doubt. His only unquestioned success has been to further the Middle East peace process, while the Administration's list of foreign policy misadventures is embarrassingly long.

Numerous remedies have been tried. One by one Mr Christopher has subcontracted major parts of his portfolio. Several top State Department officials have been replaced. Vice-President Al Gore has assumed a prominent role in the presentation of American foreign policy, and this summer David Gergen, President Clinton's media relations expert, was transferred to the State Department.

Mr Christopher has been unable to shake off his weak and ineffectual image and the conventional wisdom is that he will depart shortly after November's congressional elections. Names touted as possible successors include Strobe Talbott, Mr Christopher's present deputy, Walter Mondale, the US Ambassador to Japan and former Vice-President, or even Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Undeterred by criticism, Mr Carter maintains a gruelling schedule for a man who will turn 70 next Saturday, getting by on only a few hours sleep and jogging up to three miles a day.

After returning from Haiti, he kept in touch by telephone with all the key protagonists, talked to diplomats from North and South Korea about new plans for him to mediate their differences, flew to Memphis to receive a civil rights award and made three speeches in Atlanta on behalf of the Carter Centre which is dedicated to promoting democracy and eradicating disease in Third World countries.

Crowds rampage, page 1
Letters, page 19



Residents of the Haitian town of Jacmel, 80 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, running to welcome American Chinook helicopters bringing in US troops

Claes heads for Nato top job despite American hesitations

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE stage is now set for Nato to choose Willy Claes, the Belgian Foreign Minister, as the alliance's next Secretary-General despite last-minute doubts about his qualifications for the job.

Norway's decision last Friday to withdraw its candidate, Thorvald Stoltenberg, the United Nations negotiator and former Foreign Minister, and to back Mr Claes leaves the Belgian with no rivals and none likely to appear.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish Liberal Party leader and former Foreign Minister, indicated he was interested, but the Danish general election prevented him from running for the Nato job until last

week. By then Mr Claes had secured enough support to discourage rivals and the Copenhagen government seems reluctant even to nominate Mr Ellemann-Jensen.

If all Nato's 16 Foreign Ministers can be assembled at the UN this week, they will settle the choice in New York on Thursday. "Now it is a one-horse race. There is no realistic chance at this stage that it can be anyone other than Claes," one Nato source said over the weekend.

The only doubts about whether Mr Claes is the best available for the job have come from some American officials at Nato and some Republicans in the US Con-

gress. They point out that Mr Claes was an uncompromising member of the Flemish Socialist Party during the early 1980s when it opposed the stationing of cruise and Pershing missiles in Belgium and that this history might not endear him to the alliance's senior military officers.

Mr Claes has also been touched by the political corruption inquiries now shaking the foundations of the Belgian political establishment. He was involved in the highly controversial purchase of Italian helicopters for the Belgian army in 1988 but has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

Leading article, page 19

CIA admits spy did even more damage

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

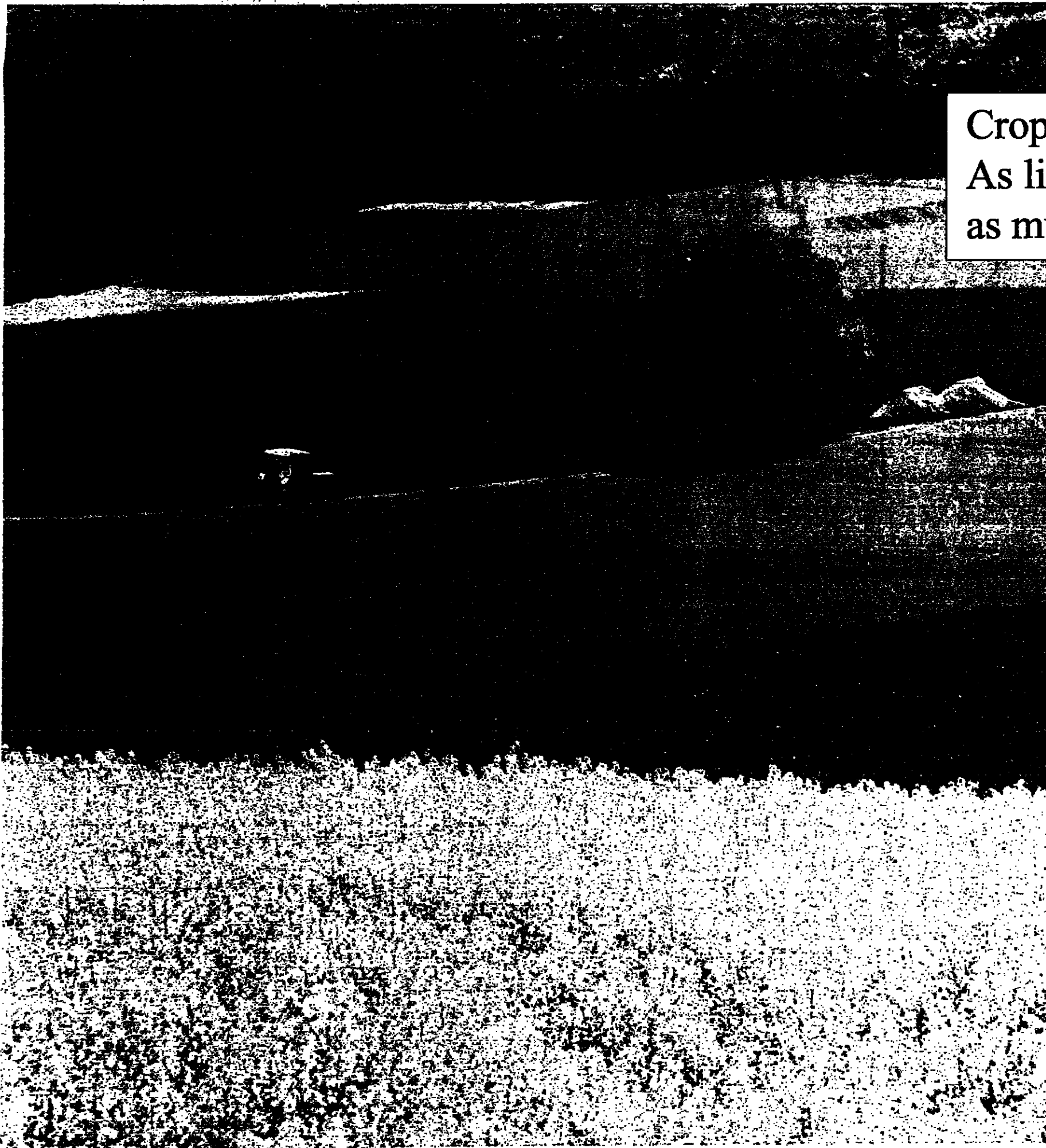
THE CIA's internal investigation into Aldrich Ames, its most damaging turncoat, has found that his spying for the KGB was more than twice as extensive as earlier disclosed.

In nine years, he exposed 55 clandestine operations and betrayed 34 American or allied agents, according to a report by the CIA's Inspector-General that was leaked to American newspapers at the weekend and will be presented to Congress this week.

The press accounts did not identify any of the agents as British, but Oleg Gordievsky, the former KGB colonel who was a top double agent for British intelligence, has said he believes Ames gave him away. Previous reports have

said that ten Soviet and East European double agents whose work for America was exposed by Ames were executed. Ames has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the treachery that paid him a total of almost £2 million.

Now his trail of devastation which rendered the CIA's Soviet operations virtually useless is expected to impinge on senior CIA officials, both current and retired, who bungled the hunt for the mole. James Woolsey, the CIA chief, has been meeting his senior staff for the past three days to decide what to do about the counter-intelligence failure. "We're waiting to see whose heads will roll," said a CIA source.



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Mladic hints at threat to UN force

By TIM JUDAH in BELGRADE
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BOSNIAN Serbs yesterday stepped up their campaign of intimidation against United Nations forces in response to a Nato air strike and the imposition of tighter sanctions by the Security Council.

General Ratko Mladic, the commander of the Bosnian Serb army, in a veiled threat to the UN peacekeeping force, told its commanders that he could not "take responsibility" for the safety of UN operations on his territory.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said food stocks in Sarajevo, where Serb action has cut off aid convoys and forced the UN to suspend its air bridge, would run out in two weeks.

General Mladic's pronouncement, in a letter to French General Bertrand de Lapresle, the UN military commander in former Yugoslavia, was the latest in a series of threats after last week's Nato air strike on a Bosnian Serb tank.

General Mladic said the air raid — "the latest crime for which you and your forces are responsible" — had destroyed houses and damaged a school. The UN said an unoccupied Serb tank was hit in what it called an appropriate response to Serb attacks that injured two peacekeepers.

Last Friday's resolution by the UN Security Council, conditionally easing sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro and tightening them on the Bosnian Serbs, was meanwhile greeted with satisfaction in Belgrade and fury by the Bosnian Serbs. "Serbia has slaughtered an ox for a pound of meat," thundered Momcilo Krajisnik, the Speaker of the Bosnian Serb assembly, who accused the Serbian leadership of President Milosevic of a "cheap betrayal."

Officials in Belgrade said that the resolution easing sanctions was a "good start" and that they hoped that it would soon be followed by moves to dismantle the trade and oil embargo.

Major and Yeltsin hail joint Bosnia initiative

John Major yesterday announced that he and President Yeltsin had agreed a new strategy for reaching a negotiated settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We have set out a political way forward," Mr Major said as the Russian leader left Britain after a weekend at Chequers. The Prime Minister refused to elaborate on details of their new initiative, although it is likely to focus on attempts to prevent the Americans pushing through a lifting of the arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government while broadening the search for a negotiated settlement.

Washington has threatened to lift the arms ban — a prospect which Europe and Russia regard as catastrophic — unless the Bosnian Serbs accept the latest Contact Group peace plan by October 15.

However, closer ties between London and Moscow will make it more difficult for America to rally support for lifting the embargo and is likely to be significant in future international negotiations across a range of issues. The European Union has been worried that America risks

The British-Russian plan will focus on ways to stop America lifting the arms ban on the Muslim-led Bosnian government, argues Eve-Ann Prentice, Diplomatic Correspondent

alienating Moscow over the former Yugoslavia, and greater trust between London and Moscow will be seen as an advantage in other European capitals.

"We are again entering a very difficult period in Bosnia," the Prime Minister said. "The point about Bosnia now is that a great deal has been achieved... but it is fragile and uncertain. The greater we can work together, the greater the chances of a lasting settlement."

In what was seen as a reference to Washington's solo push for a lifting of the arms embargo, he added: "It is particularly important for Europe, Russia and the US to stay together at this time."

President Yeltsin, who left Britain for New York to address the General Assembly of the United Nations, is to meet President Clinton later in the week, when he is expected to reinforce Mr Major's pleas for an intensified search for a

negotiated settlement. Although the Prime Minister refused to divulge details of his talks with Mr Yeltsin, the Contact Group has been discussing the possibility of allowing Bosnian Serbs to form some form of confederation with Serbia as part of a peace deal. This would allow the Bosnian Serbs, cornered by their own intransigence over the peace plan, a way out.

The Prime Minister and President Yeltsin repeatedly emphasised the warmth of their informal weekend. A joint press conference at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire yesterday was little short of a mutual admiration society. "We have had this weekend a meeting of an entirely different kind," Mr Major said. "It was useful and it was enjoyable and it was both those things in equal parts and I believe it reflects the relationship that exists between the United Kingdom

and Russia." The Russian leader, who remembers that Mr Major was swift to support him when his political survival was in dire peril during the Russian parliament's rebellion a year ago, said: "I consider we have never had such wonderful relations as exist now between Great Britain and Russia."

While the two leaders spent Saturday consolidating their relationship, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, in discussions at Mr Hurd's Oxfordshire home, were also trying to find a way out of the Bosnian morass.

Earlier, Mr Major disclosed that the two governments would be represented "at a very high level" at each other's VE-Day celebrations next year to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe. British officials said that could mean Mr Yeltsin and Mr Major attending each other's ceremonies, which are taking place a few days apart.

Mr Yeltsin also enthused about the Queen's forthcoming "historic and unique" visit to Russia next month. "It means the most important thing — that is that Russia has firmly and irrevocably entered on the democratic way."

Mr Major and Mr Yeltsin also agreed that they should work together to form a joint approach for next December's Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe meeting, which takes place in Budapest.

Washington: A Russian-American summit opens here tomorrow but with none of the advance razzmatazz that surrounded such meetings during, and at the end of, the Cold War (Ian Brodie writes).

Nonetheless, the eight hours of talks between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin will cover important ground for both countries and their neighbours and allies. Mr Yeltsin will learn first-hand of the West's concern over nuclear materials being smuggled out of Russia and his co-operation will be sought in tightening security around his country's nuclear plants and bases.



The Pope blessing the crowd yesterday at his Castel Gandolfo summer palace

Subdued Pope leads prayers

FROM REUTERS
IN ROME

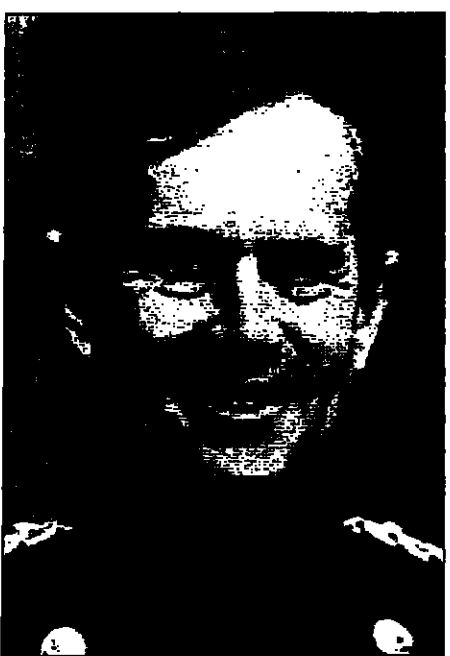
THE Pope, appearing tired and subdued, led regular public prayers yesterday after a week marked by rising worries about his health, sparked by the postponement of a visit to America and the scaling down of a trip to Sicily.

The Pope, 74, was helped as he took his place at a

reading desk at a window of the papal summer palace at Castel Gandolfo, southeast of Rome, from where he led the prayers. Several hundred of the faithful heard the Pope speak for about 20 minutes in a monotone. He seemed fatigued as he struck to his scripted speech, making none of the spontaneous comments and jokes that are the frequent hallmarks of his Sunday appearances. The

pilgrims cheered and clapped at the end of the prayers, as the Pope was once again helped away from the window.

The US visit, planned for October 20-23, was cancelled because it would have put too much of a strain on his leg, still recovering from bone-replacement surgery after a fall in April. His Sicilian trip is scheduled for November 4-6.



Rose departure rumours denied

SPECULATION is growing that Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, left, the United Nations commander in Bosnia, may be replaced before his one-year appointment ends, according to a report in *The New York Times* yesterday (Michael Evans writes). The paper's Sarajevo correspondent reported that he could be succeeded by Major-General Rupert Smith, Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) at the Ministry of Defence, and Divisional Commander of the British Forces during the Gulf War.

However, the Ministry of Defence last night dismissed the rumours about General Rose, who is on leave in Britain. Although his is a UN appointment, a ministry official said that he was doing an excellent job at the head of the 22,000 UN troops in Bosnia. Recently there have been disagreements between General Rose and Nato commanders over the use of air strikes to punish the Bosnian Serbs.

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Comfort for Kohl as Bavarian allies head for victory

FROM ROGER BOYES IN MUNICH

BAVARIA'S Christian Social Union was heading for outright victory in regional elections yesterday, fortifying Helmut Kohl's government and boosting the German Chancellor's chances of retaining power next month.

The election yesterday pitted Edmund Stoiber, 52, the Bavarian Prime Minister — a savvy lawyer whose best wishes are said to be crushed by Finance Ministry officials — and the Social Democrat, Renate Schmidt, a youthful-looking, 51-year-old grandmother who has been picking up support in a long election campaign in the beer-drinking southern state.

Frau Schmidt has a kind of rustic feminism, specific to Bavaria: women voters were advised last week "to teach your men to do the ironing while your love is still hot". But she never stood a chance of victory. Bavarian politics, with its back-slapping and back-scratching, has always been a masculine game.

There was little surprise in Munich when Herr Stoiber's CSU first looked in sight of an



absolute majority. Since taking over as Prime Minister, he has been waging a non-stop election campaign. Even his much exaggerated Euro-scepticism, a kind of "Bavaria First" programme, was aimed primarily at neutralising the nationalist rhetoric of the far-right Republicans.

At Munich's vast Oktoberfest beer festival yesterday, there was little joy at the prospect of Herr Stoiber returning to power: more a sense of resignation. The alternative was too risky and the Prime Minister was doing his job well enough. However, there was greater enthusiasm in Bonn. Since the CSU is the sister party of the Christian Democrats and a central pillar of the Bonn government, that is good news for the Chancellor, who faces a general election on October 16.

Less encouraging is the future of the small liberal Free Democratic Party, also a member of the three-party Bonn coalition. In the last regional election, in 1990, the party scraped into the Bavarian parliament by the slimmest of margins. This time, according to opinion polls, the

party was likely to drop out of the regional parliament. That will increase the anxiety in Herr Kohl's chancellery: if the Free Democrats slump at the general election, the government cannot survive in its present form.

The most enduring message to emerge from this month's state elections in Brandenburg, Saxony and Bavaria is that German voters — sensing economic recovery on the horizon and unwilling to take risks — are opting for strong political personalities and rejecting appeals for radical change.

In Saxony, a Democrat-controlled Brandenburg that benefited Manfred Stolpe, who jumped by a remarkable 14 per cent to capture an absolute majority. In Saxony Kurt Biedenkopf, the Christian Democrat economics professor, also held on to a big absolute majority. Herr Stoiber was set last night to continue the pattern.

Following this logic, German voters will renew Herr Kohl's mandate. His party has taken the cue and is pressing for outright victory. There are always casualties in personality-driven election campaigns: the Free Democrats, the Greens and the Republicans were all far from confident as the last votes were being counted yesterday.

The chief casualty may be the Social Democratic rival to Herr Kohl, the bearded Rudolf Scharping. Nobody expected Frau Schmidt to win yesterday. It was unfortunate, however, that this was the last state vote before the general election. Herr Scharping is, if anything, a less colourful figure than Frau Schmidt, and his support in the party is beginning to look frail.



A smiling O.J. Simpson listening to a pre-trial hearing in Los Angeles with Robert Shapiro, his lawyer. The judge has threatened to ban cameras from the court

Simpson trial judge attacks 'prejudicial' media reports

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

O.J. SIMPSON'S long-awaited murder trial begins today with jury selection eclipsed for the time being by a row between the media and Lance Ito, the judge.

Tension between Judge Ito and the army of reporters encamped round his courtroom had been simmering for weeks, with the judge frequently warning that sensationalist coverage of pre-trial hearings might prejudice the American football star's right to a fair trial.

That tension boiled over on Friday when the judge threatened to ban television cam-

eras from the court after a local NBC station refused to retract an inaccurate report about a blood-spattered sock found in Simpson's house after the murders on June 12 of his former wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

"I'm beyond being outraged," the judge told the court after the NBC report was broadcast. "For this kind of information to come out, and for it to be incorrect and so prejudicial, is outrageous."

A courtroom camera ban would make a mockery of "satellite village", the elaborate outside broadcast opera-

tion set up in a car park opposite the court.

The false story about the blood on the sock, which NBC claimed had tested positive for Nicole Simpson's DNA, is the kind of misinformation from which the judge hopes to protect the 1,000 potential jurors, whose screening is expected to last up to a month.

Seven hundred of those sent the lengthy forms, which are designed to eliminate prejudiced jurors, have already asked to be excused duty from what is certain to be among the most closely scrutinised juries of all time.

Lid taken off Milan fashion bribery

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

BRIBES disclosed to investigators by Giorgio Armani and Gianfranco Ferré are only the tip of an iceberg of corruption and money-laundering by Milan fashion firms, it was claimed yesterday.

"Companies that started off as artisans 20 years ago have been transformed into big industrial holdings with turnovers of billions of lire," *La Repubblica* said, "but none of them like to publicise their accounts." The article continued: "Image prophets when talking about fashion, they become as obscure as the most reserved Swiss banker when illustrating their accounts."

Contrary to what happens in France, none of the Italian houses are quoted on the bourse and therefore do not have certified accounts.

Oreste Dominioni, Armani's lawyer, said the designer told magistrates on Saturday he was forced to make a payment to tax inspectors. Judicial sources said Armani made a payment of 100 million lire (£40,000). Ferré was reported to have paid 300 million lire.

Elsewhere, Luciano De Camillo, a businessman, gave himself up to authorities on Saturday after an arrest warrant was issued for him on charges of acting as a middle-man for a bribe of \$260,000 allegedly paid by Krizia, the trade name of the designer, Mariuccia Mandelli.

Paolo Pietroni, editor of *Class* magazine and author of *Nothing under the Dress*, a novel about cocaine dealing in the Milan fashion world, said money-laundering was rife in the business. "I am supposed to have paid 100 million [lire]," he was quoted as telling the *Corriere della Sera*. "I find Krizia's \$260,000 more plausible."

Green light for street of dolce vita

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

THE Roman authorities will reopen the Via Veneto to traffic this week despite protests by pressure groups which fear that the street, that once symbolised the *dolce vita* will become squalid again.

The city council has decided that the street will remain a pedestrian precinct at weekends as a committee of experts headed by Ettore Scola, the film director, draws up a definitive plan to restore the area to the vitality it enjoyed during the 1950s and 1960s. The decision was backed by the oldest Rome newspaper, *Il Messaggero*, which said the weekday pedestrian experiment had turned the street into a desert at night.

But the prospect of renewed noise and pollution during weekdays has enraged the Via Veneto Traders' Association, which sees it as a step backwards in the wake of the recent reopening of several of the street's landmark buildings.

The Café de Paris has survived a brief closure and Harry's Bar reopened in February. The only fast food restaurant on the street closed after a press outcry.

The old fun-loving spirit of the area was also rekindled this month when Mario D'Urso, a financier accompanying Princess Margaret at the Jackie O' night club, took umbrage at attention from a veteran paparazzo. Signor D'Urso chased Rino Barillari, of *Il Messaggero*, and smacked him on both cheeks; the photographer escaped with his film.

"We are all perplexed by the decision to reopen the street to traffic," Giuseppe De Luca, of the tradesmen's association, said. "Traffic is suffocating the city, but closing the street was not enough. It needed the council to spend money on new lighting and fountains."

Anti-racist law backed by Swiss

Zurich: Switzerland's voters yesterday approved a government plan to introduce a law making racial discrimination, racist propaganda and denial of the Nazi Holocaust illegal. Swiss state television said.

Results received from all 26 cantons and half-cantons showed 1,132,336 voters supported the legislation, while 939,739 rejected it. (Reuters)

Girls raped

Johannesburg: An armed gang of youths who forced 12 South African girls to get off a school bus in the black township of Sharpeville raped six of them, the girls told police. The other six were missing. (AP)

Train deaths

Luanda: At least 70 people were killed and 74 injured when a train was derailed in southern Angola. A spokesman said passengers were travelling illegally. (Reuters)

Roof-top rescue

Porac: Philippines army helicopters plucked scores of people from treetops and roofs as mudflows from Mount Pinatubo killed at least 23. (Reuters)

Rebel kidnap

Bogotá: An American working for the International Centre of Tropical Agriculture was kidnapped by far-left Colombian guerrillas. (Reuters)

French take scalpel to dissect woes of a decaying Britain

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE score in the ancient sport of "Scènes-Changelé" abuse has been levelled by the French, thinking classes in the form of an august Parisian think-tank, the French Institute for International Relations.

In an elegant if somewhat shop-worn diatribe, the institute depicts the decay of Britain as a lesson for Europe. "To study the United Kingdom is to study decline," says the introduction to a section on Britain that occupies a third of the institute's annual report on the world.

"Britain's political identity: worn out?", asks the institute as it embarks on an analysis of a once-great society that, it notes, gave the world the Mother of Parliaments, the Industrial Revolution and the BBC.

Treading a path that is as well-worn in Britain as France, the institute finds 1990s Britain to be a stifling, class-ridden, hypocritical society, uncertain of its allegiance to Europe and its role in the world. The rot began in the 1960s, when Britain became the "sick man of Europe" and the Thatcher revival did nothing to reverse this sorry state of affairs, the institute notes.

"Far from rejuvenating the British political system, the 1980s made it increasingly authoritarian," it laments, citing increased centralisation and strengthened police pow-

ers. The economic recovery of the 1990s might have been expected to help pull the country out of its malaise, but political squabbling and an orgy of scandals in the tabloid press are evidence that British institutions are continuing to fall apart while the country becomes more "inward-looking and even hypocritical".

The British disease is manifest in the country's failure to reform its inadequate education and training system, allowing it to be left trailing by its neighbours. The British, say the analysts, still define their identity in terms of a worn-out past.

Central to Britain's problems is its confused attitude to Europe, says the report. "Britain belongs to Europe, but at the same time it is an island with its face turned against the continent... Insularity is at the heart and is almost the motor of its national identity."

The authors of the report could hardly be faulted for excessive originality, since the late General Charles De Gaulle dispatched Britain with the same formula 50 years ago. Whenever the subject of Britain and Europe comes up, the hard-up pundits reach for De Gaulle's celebrated quote about Britain being permanently drawn to *le grand large* of the ocean and America rather than the Continent.

Pilot saves plunging Airbus

BY CHARLES BRENNER

THE Romanian authorities yesterday blamed the automatic pilot for an incident which sent a Tarom airlines Airbus into a near-vertical dive over the Paris suburbs, causing panic among shoppers.

The A310 jet, carrying 173 passengers and 11 crew, was starting its approach to Orly airport on a flight on Saturday from Bucharest when its left wing dropped and it entered a steep dive. People attending the market in Villeneuve-le-Roi, a suburb under the approach to Orly, froze at the prospect of an imminent disaster.

The Romanian Embassy said the aircraft had "escaped the pilot's control" while under automatic pilot and dived. The pilot, one of the most experienced on the airline, had recovered the aircraft by taking manual control, it said.

Hungary's nobles waltz for charity

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BUDAPEST

THE strains of the waltz resounded around Budapest's Museum of Fine Arts as the band struck up and the dance floor was a sea of shabby dinner jackets and shimmering ball gowns.

It seemed a scene from a bygone era of grandeur as counts and countesses, princes and princesses, including Princess Michael of Kent and Hungarian ministers, took to the floor, whirling around the paintings in a rustle of silk.

Under communism, Eastern Europe's aristocracy were dispossessed and expelled: there was no place in the workers' paradise for nobility, the ultimate expression of a class-ridden society. But the former class enemy has proved more durable than its Marxist persecutors.

Habsburg days are here again in Hungary as the aristocracy returns from exile to relaunch the grand traditions of the former Austro-Hungarian empire. These include the charity ball to dispense largesse to the growing underclass and the use of titles to remind them of their proper place in the world.

"I consider that in this country everybody knows who I am and there is no need for playing with titles. We are what

we are, but we still want to get back on equal terms with everyone and nobody should feel inferior." Prince Antal Eszterhazy de Galantha, the ball committee chairman, said.

After 40 years of drab communism, the region's aristocrats are returning to claim their estates, mansions and castles.



Princess Michael took part in an aristocratic charity ball

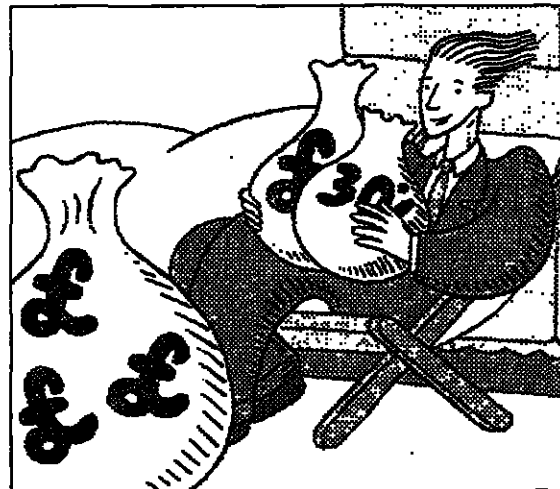
although they often fight a losing battle as their family homes have been turned into schools and orphanages or are now on sale to the highest bidder.

However, a 19th-century lifestyle of ostentatious display and conspicuous consumption demands more than a luxury residence. Hungary now boasts everything needed for genuine aristocrats or the floating member of the international glitterati. From the Budapest polo club, founded in 1904 and just reopened, to the glossy society magazines chronicling the lives of Mittel Europa's great and good.

The organising committee of the weekend gala in aid of the Red Cross — the tickets cost 75,000 forint (£480) — is peppered with the names of Central Europe's nobility. But in a society where the average monthly wage is 25,000 forints and a third of the population lives on or below the poverty line, the return of the aristocracy can be a sensitive subject.

Prince Antal Eszterhazy said: "People see we have a certain standard and they resent it. We would like to give back part of what we have, but we can only do this if they co-operate."

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Slums left to rats as thousands flee Indian plague city

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN SURAT, WESTERN INDIA

THE rats finally have the slums of Surat to themselves. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled in panic from the pneumonic plague that struck last week, turning much of this foulest of Indian cities into a ghost town.

Mountains of rubbish are piled in the sewage-soaked slum alleys, along with the festering carcasses of cattle killed in a flood three weeks ago. This is a perfect town for disease. Its untreated sewage goes into soak-pits and rubbish collection is rudimentary.

The official death toll is about 50, but the real figure is probably double that, and more than 200 suspected plague victims are in hospital. Supplies of tetracycline, the antibiotic commonly used to treat bubonic and pneumonic plague, are exhausted.

There has never been a programme of rat eradication, partly because of the religious status of rodents in much of



western India. This is because Ganesh, the popular elephant-headed god, rides on a rat.

Neighbouring states are attempting to seal their borders to keep potentially infected people out, but the stampede is unstoppable. Delhi has issued a red alert and Bombay, barely 100 miles to the south, has ordered hospitals to prepare for a possible outbreak.

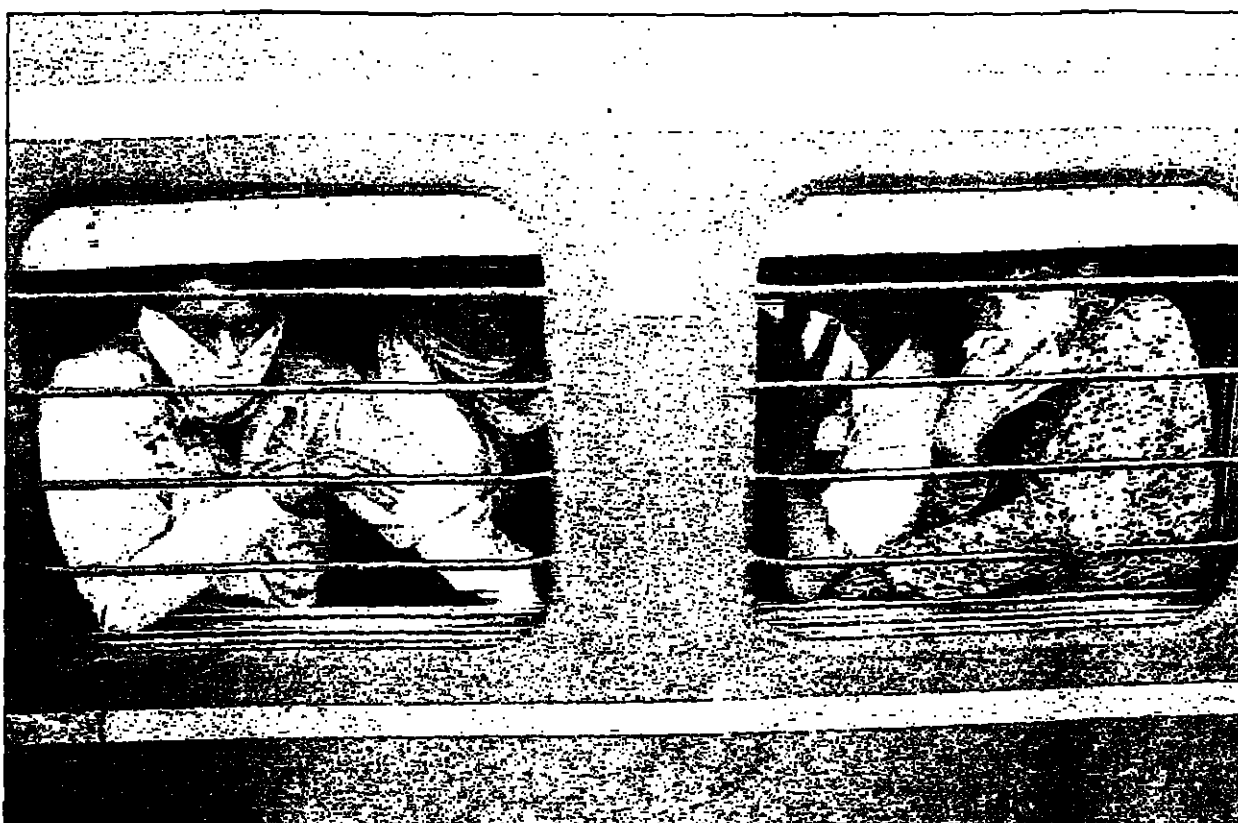
The coming days will tell whether the disease has been

contained. The state government of Gujarat, where Surat is located, claimed yesterday that the worst was over. If true, it will be no thanks to government action.

The only evidence of action yesterday was the lighting of hundreds of bonfires, filling the air with acrid smoke, to try to get rid of some of the rubbish on city streets. The few slum dwellers still in the worst affected areas say they have not seen a single health worker or government official in years, and certainly none in the past five days.

M.S. Dayal, the Indian Health Secretary, claimed yesterday that the outbreak was under control. "The government is fully prepared and there is going to be no large-scale outbreak," he said.

After the early editions of Surat's newspapers reached the streets at 2 am last Thursday, confirming the outbreak of plague, rumours spread



Passengers covering their faces in a bid to ward off the plague yesterday as their train passed through Surat

that the entire city water supply had been poisoned. Panic ensued. Then a rumour went round that Islamic extremists were preparing a terrorist attack to avenge the massacre of 200 Muslims in the slums in religious riots two years ago. Within hours

people were fighting each other to get on board buses, trains, lorries and rickshaws. The pandemonium has largely abated and the slums, usually seething, are silent. The educated and the rich, normally secure in their castles, have joined the poor and

illiterate in their flight to safety.

The plague outbreak has highlighted the woeful sums spent on public health — about 6 per cent of GDP, most of which goes to large urban centres. Millions have died from plague this century. The

worst year was 1907, when 1.3 million died.

The government has refused to seal Surat, fearing riots. At one point last Thursday, 20,000 people were crammed on the platforms of Surat railway station, looking for a train going anywhere.

Buthelezi tells King to stay out of politics

FROM MICHAEL HAMELYN IN KWAMASHU, DURBAN

WITH tension between the Inkatha Freedom Party and the residents of Kwamashu township, who mainly support the African National Congress, at breaking point in Natal, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday warned his nephew, King Goodwill Zwelithini, to stay out of politics.

The Zulu monarch boycotted the annual celebrations marking the day of the death of his predecessor, King Shaka, founder of the Zulu military nation. Instead, in his palace at Nongoma, he prayed for peace.

Chief Buthelezi told supporters who had assembled at a local football stadium for the Shaka Day celebrations: "There is no room in the new South Africa for an executive King, unless our agenda is to destroy the monarchy itself."

Israeli and PLO chiefs agree new Cairo talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER AT THE EREZ CROSSING, GAZA

THE leaders of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation agreed yesterday to gloss over differences on the future of their year-old peace pact and to sanction new talks in Cairo next week to arrange a date for already delayed Palestinian elections.

Although the two-hour meeting gave no sign that PLO demands for a November 1 election date will be met,

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, displayed none of the public distaste and suspicion that marked previous encounters.

Police in Jerusalem yesterday dragged 20 Jewish protesters from the Temple Mount after they tried to block a tourist entrance. Officers had stopped them entering the site as a group.

THE TIMES COUNTDOWN £1,000

To be won each day

TODAY is Day Five on your pick card of our Countdown word game which offers you the chance to win up to £1,000 every weekday. There are two games to play each day — the TV game, played in conjunction with Channel 4's Countdown, and The Times game — each offering a prize of £500. If a game has no winner the unclaimed prize is added to the next day's prize.

To play both games you will need your weekly Countdown game card, which you will find in The Times every Tuesday.

THE TV GAME

To play, tune in to Countdown on Channel 4 at 4.30pm today and you have six chances of winning or sharing the £500 prize.

In each of the six rounds where letters are drawn on TV a contestant will select nine letters. Check these against the eight letters printed for the same TV round on your game card (ie, by excluding the rounds where numbers are drawn, Round 5 on TV will equate to word Round 4 on your card). If you can match all eight letters, in any one round, in any order, you have won that round and can claim a share of today's £500. NB: If you have the same letter repeated in any one row on your card, it can only be crossed off if that letter appears the same number of times on that TV round.

To claim the TV prize, phone our hotline on 094-510 0665 between 5pm and 8pm today. You must have your game card with you. If there is more than one valid claim, the prize will be divided among the winners.

THE TIMES GAME

On your Countdown card there are five daily games. Each has five rounds with nine spaces which include either five or six consonants which will vary from card to card.

Printed right is a selection of vowels which should be placed on to your game card in the spaces provided. Rearrange the

nine letters to form five words (using as many letters as possible to form one word for each round) and write your solution in the empty boxes. Now, add up the letters. If the total equals or is greater than the target number below, you can claim. If more than one person equals or breaks today's target number, the person with the highest score wins the £500 daily prize.

To claim The Times prize phone our hotline on 094-514 4777 between 4pm and 8pm today. You must have your card with you. In the event of more than one valid claim, the prize will be divided among the winners.

THE TIMES

Today's Vowels
Round 1 E A E
Round 2 E A A E
Round 3 E O E
Round 4 O I U E
Round 5 O O I
Target Number: 37

For the purpose of judging, The Concise Oxford Dictionary — New Edition for the 1990s will be the sole reference, and the rules for Countdown will apply. In all matters the Editor's decision will be final. If your copy of The Times did not contain a game card, contact your newsagent or call 071-867 0404.

Countdown game devised by Armand Jammot

4

CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION

COUNTDOWN is a registered trade mark of Yorkshire Television Ltd

COUNTDOWN PRIZEWINNERS

There is no winner for Day Three of the TV game and the £500 prize is carried forward so that yesterday's TV game prize was £1,000.

The £500 Day Three Times game prize was shared six winners with 39 letters each. They are: Mrs Margaret Mason of Fife, Scotland; Mrs Patricia Oliver of Clwyd, Wales; Mr Trevor Crowther of Winchester, Hants; Mr Ray Parkinson of Waterloo, Liverpool; Mrs Inga Nicoll of Dyfed, Wales and Mrs Bunny Kennedy of Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex.

Mrs Oliver, who is a health nurse, had the following consonants on her card and by using the vowels for Day Three made the following five words.

Round 1: W D N G S N (O I I) — DISOWNING
Round 2: P L T R G (U E E) — REPTILE
Round 3: R P L L L (A I A) — PARTIAL
Round 4: D S F R (E I I E) — DISCREET
Round 5: K G L S T N (A O I) — STALKING

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Deposit	£3,601.25	£2,009.25	£5,032.75	£3,744.63
Total Credit Price	£7,202.50	£8,168.27**	£10,065.50	£11,205.63**
Monthly Repayments	£150.05 x 24	£36 x 24	£209.72 x 24	£39 x 24
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POP
Carlos Santana, the veteran wild man of Latin rock, brings his caravanserai to the Hammersmith Apollo
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



MUSIC
Teenage violin prodigy Sarah Chang joins the party for the London Symphony Orchestra's nineteenth birthday
GIG: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday



FILM
A bus ride from hell for Keanu Reeves in Jan de Bont's new thriller, *Speed* — the ultimate chase movie
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS
Tory bites Tory: Douglas Hurd reviews *The Dangerous Edge*. Tim Renton's first venture into thrillers
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

A social sledgehammer

Ken Loach's films pull no punches. Carol Allen found him in fighting form

It is difficult to believe that this slight, bespectacled figure is the maverick filmmaker whose uncompromising screen drama has created so many headlines. Ken Loach's gentle manner and soft voice, still tinged with the Nuneaton vowels of his childhood, seem at odds not only with the angry stance against social injustice that runs through his work but also with the tough sentiments he expresses in conversation.

His latest film, *Ladybird*, is consistent with the social realism he established in the 1960s with *Up the Junction* and *Cathy Come Home*. A woman loses her children to the social services after her involvement with a violent partner, and then finds herself a marked woman when she tries to start a new family with a new man.

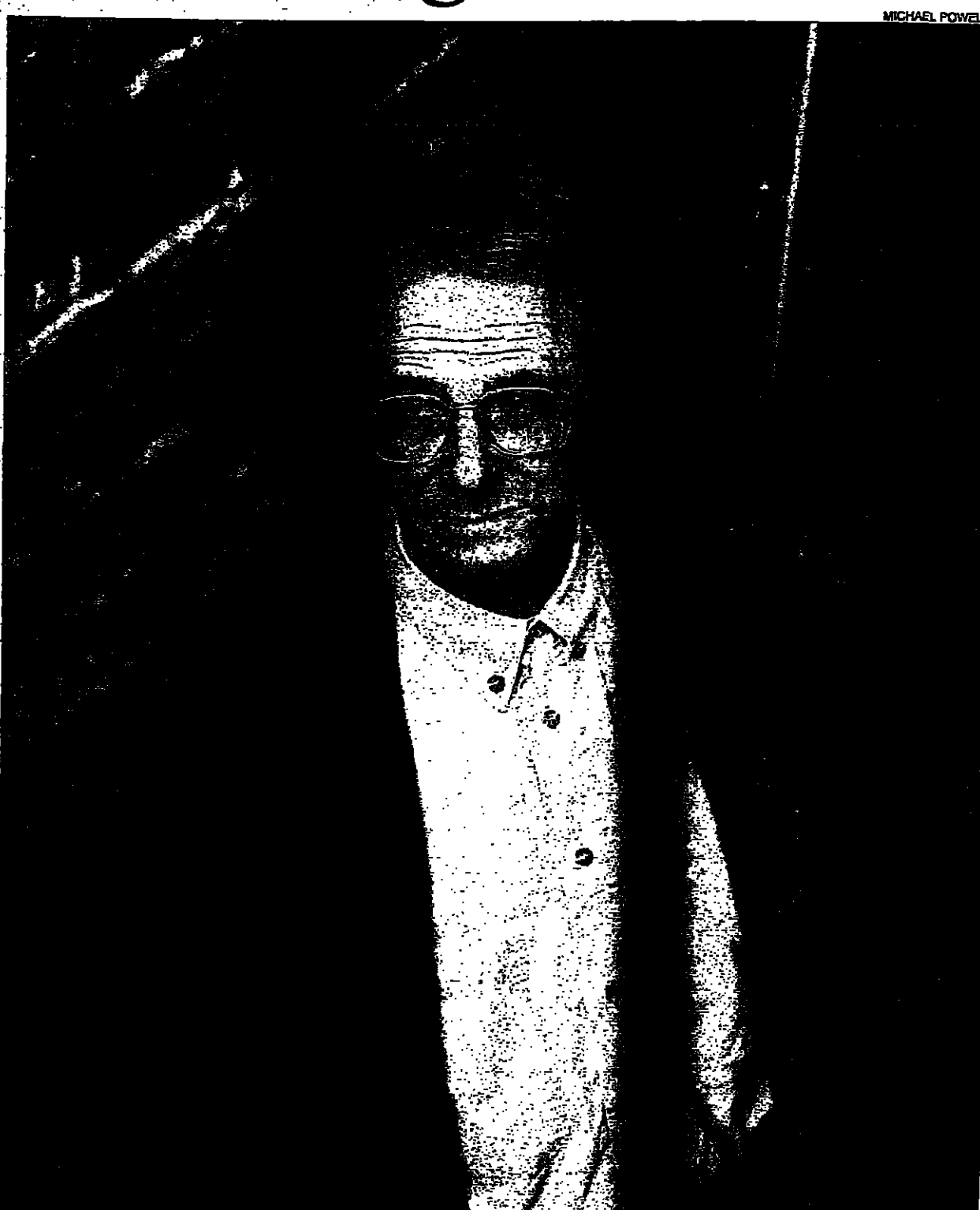
As in many previous films, from *Kes* to *Raining Stones*, Loach has drawn strong performances from non-actors in the main roles, in this case the stand-up comedienne Crissy Rock as the woman and the Chilean musician Vladimir Vega as her partner. There is one scene, when her newborn baby is taken away from her by police and social workers, in which Rock's scream of agony seems to echo Carol White's *Cathy* back in 1966. However, Loach sees more differences than similarities between the two pieces.

Cathy was a campaigning film about homelessness, while *Ladybird* is about the relationship between Maggie and her new partner Jorge. In a way, *Ladybird* is much more like *Kes*, because it's about someone who presents a different face to the authorities from the one we see through the film.

Nevertheless, Maggie's situation (based on real life) is still likely to hit audiences with the impact of a sledgehammer. "It makes you want to go out and kill a social worker," somebody said after a press screening. But any suggestion that the film is partisan makes Loach uncomfortable.

"We've misjudged it if that's the case. We didn't want to attack social workers, who have a very tough job and are by and large thoughtful people. The woman they see is angry, abusive, uncooperative, potentially violent. They don't see the other person that the film sees. In the real case, the social workers behaved a lot worse and I think there was a serious injustice done to the couple."

When the story was first brought to Loach's attention, a decision had to be made. Should he do it as a documentary or a drama? "One problem with documentary is that you can't do anything that would identify the children. So people would have to be seen in silhouette, and the social



Ken Loach, whose *Ladybird* opens on Friday. "There was a serious injustice done to the couple"

services could not comment on an individual case. You wouldn't really be able to tell the story very clearly. Secondly, to explore the relationship between Maggie and Jorge we felt it needed to be written and performed, so that you would get underneath the skin of the characters."

The decision to fictionalise the real-life story of "Maggie and Jorge" has once more landed Loach in controversy, with accusations in *The Sunday Times* that he has distorted the truth by leaving out important elements, including the fact that the social services had very good reasons for removing the children of their union.

"That's actually a lie. Every material fact is in the film and that journalist's piece is full of inaccuracies. She says the real Maggie is a Liverpoolian in the film was from Ireland. She's not, she's from London, born and bred. She said that the three remaining children were on the at-risk register. They are not."

"What distorts the truth by and large is the media. The

picture that we get of the world doesn't come from film-makers. It comes from newspapers or from the BBC or ITV. I agree, nobody is justified in rearranging facts to provide a false interpretation. But on practically every world issue or political issue you care to mention the facts are rearranged by the news media to provide us with an opinion.

"What determines what you can see in the cinema is commerce. If you can make money out of it, you can show it. What determines what you can see on television is political. Because of overt political censorship, particularly in the case of Ireland, some people were not allowed to speak and nobody by and large was allowed to put the republican point of view. This idea that we have freedom of speech is largely a myth."

"As Tony Benn said, we don't need the KGB here, we've got the BBC to do that job for us."

Loach's view of the world was shaped by his early days at BBC Television in the 1960s, where he worked with producer Tony Garnett and such writers as Barry Hines, Jeremy Sandford and Neil Dunn. "It was a political time. There was a lot of disillusion with the Wilson government, because we thought naively that the Labour Party would change the world and of course it didn't. Also, we were making plays and films that went on air just after the news."

Loach is currently in post-production on his biggest film yet, with a £2.75 million budget: small beer by American standards but expensive for a British movie. Featuring Ian Hart (John Lennon in *Backbeat*) as a young Liverpoolian joining the fight against Franco, *Land and Freedom* is set in Spain in 1936, the year of Loach's birth, and deals with the conflicts which divided the Republicans and hampered their battle against Fascism. It is a project that he and writer Jim Allen have dreamt of making for years — and he says that the young Spaniards who took part in the film gave his political principles a boost.

"You felt they would fight in the civil war if it happened tomorrow. There is a lot of idealism among kids still. That is something that is easy for hardened old cynics to forget."

Loach's *Ladybird* will be reviewed on Thursday, and is released on Friday.

What distorts the truth is the media

Going back to Tony

THE redoubtable Diana Rigg is expected to play Gertrude when the Almeida Theatre production of *Hamlet*, with Ralph Fiennes, opens on February 28 at the Hackney Empire. It will then embark on an international tour that will bring Rigg back to Broadway, where she won a Tony last season for *Medea*. Nobody can doubt Fiennes's commitment to the project. He has been driving American casting agents to distraction by postponing any more film work until the seven-month *Hamlet* engagement is over.

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OVERTURES
Latest moves in show business and the arts

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VOGLER QUARTET
MICHAEL COLLINS
Mary Scully double bass
CLARINET QUINETS BY
BRAHMS AND WEBER
BAERMANN: ADAMO FROM SEPIET
5.14, 5.12, 5.9, 5.6
Box Office/CC 071-935 2141
Supported by YAMAHA

BEAUTIFUL THING Opening night, 27th Sept 8.15pm. Jonathan Harvey's award-winning and touching play about teenage love, gay and straight, on a London council estate. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2C 0ET. 071-836 5120. Tonight, 7pm. Then 8pm, 10pm, 11pm, 12.15pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm.

DESIGN FOR LIVING Clive Owen, Paul Ryan and Rachel Weiss in Coward's classic of the marriage a la mode. The evening is a study of how through Stan Maas' surrealist theatricality where characters of class and shades of colour, added or thwarted by four gods and goddesses, Tamara, stand out. Island (formerly the Royal) Theatre, 11, off Kingsway, WC2C 0ET. 071-494 6090. Now previewing, 8pm, opening Wed 27th.

THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE Christopher Mee's excellent staging of Shakespeare's study of honour, love and "political" in the American War of Independence. Strong performance from among others, Richard Bonheville, Paul Jessel, Daniel Massey. National Concert Hall, South Bank, SE1 0NT. 071-253 2521. Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm. 7.15pm. 7.15pm.

LET THERE BE LOVE Carolee Carmichael's narrative of a young woman who has two dozen songs and is trapped in a loveless marriage. Theatrical Royal Stratford East, Gerry Parnes Square, E15 0JH. 071-434 0310. Tonight, 8pm, 10pm, 12.15pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm.

500 ONE-DOLLAR David Board's play about the stock market and a young woman who is a stockbroker. Theatrical Royal Stratford East, Gerry Parnes Square, E15 0JH. 071-434 0310. Tonight, 8pm, 10pm, 12.15pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm.

THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUE BROTHERS "Joe and Sal" put on a show of blues and rhythm in blues. Lights, noise, good times, extraordinary stuff. Comedy, Farnham St, SW1 0JH. 071-253 1731. Mon-Thu, 8pm Fri and Sat, 6pm and 8pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE
Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND Birmingham Rep's production of the Caribbean musical in which love defies difference of class and shades of colour, added or thwarted by four gods and goddesses. Tamara, stand out. Island (formerly the Royal) Theatre, 11, off Kingsway, WC2C 0ET. 071-494 6090. Now previewing, 8pm, opening Wed 27th.

ONLY THE LOVELY Larry Stanton in Bill Kenwright's musical on the life and songs of Roy Orbison. Great versions of the Big O. Comedy, Farnham St, SW1 0JH. 071-253 1731. Now previewing, 8pm, opening tomorrow, 7pm.

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY Complex staging of Wilde's famous tale, set partly in the Twenties among members of Wilde's circle. Theatrical Royal Stratford East, Gerry Parnes Square, E15 0JH. 071-434 0310. Tonight, 8pm, 10pm, 12.15pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm.

THE SISTERS ROSENCRANCE Limited run here for the Greenwich Theatre production of Wendy Wasserstein's too cozy play. Three sisters, Margaret, Joan, and Jane, Susan and Linda Bellingham seek happiness amidst tears. Theatrical Royal Stratford East, Gerry Parnes Square, E15 0JH. 071-434 0310. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, 10pm, 12.15pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm. 5.30pm.

SOME VOICES Ian Robinson directs Joe Penhall's play about an urban life in Shepherd's Bush — about people who don't know what's good for them.

NEW RELEASES
ABRAHAM VALLEY (PG) Veteran Portuguese director Manoel de Oliveira's latest meditation on Madame Bovary. 1935, with Lily and Jean. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

BRANSCAN (16) A CD-ROM game gives a computer not more than he bargained for. Tame horror movie, with Edward Furlong, Frank Langella and T. Roger Smith. Director, John Flynn. MGM Home Video. 071-434 0310.

CLYDE BUCKLEY (12) Overly cropped sequel to the 1981 hit, with Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern, Jon Lovitz and Jack Palance. Paul Verhoeven directs. MGM Home Video. 071-434 0310.

DEADLY DREAMS (16) A CD-ROM game gives a computer not more than he bargained for. Tame horror movie, with Edward Furlong, Frank Langella and T. Roger Smith. Director, John Flynn. MGM Home Video. 071-434 0310.

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CINEMA GUIDE
Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol *) on release across the country

DAZED AND CONFUSED (18) High school kids of 1976 drink, light and philosophise. Mildly disconcerting follow-up to *Stakeholder* from director Richard Linklater. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

THE FLINTSTONES (U) Hollow, noisy live-action treatment of the TV cartoon set in Stone Age suburbia, with John Goodman, Brian Levant directs. Empire (0800 888111) MGM. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

THE HUSKIER PROXY (PG) Hack becomes a comedy book. Racy comic pastiche from the Coen brothers, with Tim Robbins, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Paul Newman. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

TRUE LIES (15) Schwarzenegger saves the world from Middle East terrorists. But what about his marriage? Overlooked fun with James Lee Cowie. Empire (0800 888111) MGM. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18) Enthralling account of sex, power and 1700,000, with Linda Fiorentino as the femme fatale to end them all. Director, John Dahl. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

THE MASK (PG) Strange mask turns mild bank employee into a wisecracking demon. Inevitable vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey. Mixed with the antic spirit of 1940s cartoons. MGM. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

SMOKING/NO SMOKING (PG) Aykubov adapted into French by Alan Resnais, exquisitely turned, but the antics gets wearing. With Sabine Azéma and Henri Aron. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

WOLF (15) Jack Nicholson's beast when finally comes out. Amazing intelligent western movie, with Michelle Pfeiffer. Director, Michael Nichols. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

WYATT EARP (15) Over-the-top and reverential epic, with Kevin Costner as the lawman, and Dennis Quaid as Doc Holliday. Lawrence Kasdan directs. MGM. 071-434 0310. 071-434 0310.

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NEXT WEEK
Readers can collect the first presentation from the popular category: *Lets Swing* will include the big band sounds of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Count Basie, plus many more.

Psychologists on the trail of criminals ... new hope for sufferers of sickle cell anaemia ... how to keep your beer bubbling



THE JUDGE who launched a broadside at the police handling of the Rachel Nickell murder case was clearly unimpressed by the use of psychology to probe the criminal mind. If, by some chance, he reads the *Journal of the Forensic Science Society*, the latest issue might help to change his mind. Professor David Canter, of the University of Liverpool, the founder of the subject, has found that in four cases out of five it is possible to predict a rapist's home base to within an area of 12 square miles. Police could use the method at a local level to decide where to start looking, he believes.

With Adam Gregory, of Surrey University, Professor Canter studied 45 British rapists, responsible for 251 offences. They first checked whether they were "commuters" — men who travelled a substantial distance to a different area to commit their offences, or "marauders", who moved shorter distances from their own home base, in a different direction each time.

Mapping the rapist's mind

Of the 45, all but six were marauders, they report. They then found that the race and age of the offender and whether the attack was carried out indoors or out of doors all had a bearing on how far the rapist travelled. The first rape is far more likely to be carried out close to a rapist's home than are subsequent ones.

All these factors were built into a computer model which predicted the likely area where any rapist lived. For 83 per cent of the offenders, this lay within an area of only 11.39 square miles,



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Professor Canter, by the way, agrees with the judge about the Nickell case. Had it proceeded further, he was to have given

evidence for the defence. "Clearly, the police got it wrong — but with the right training they can get it right in the future," he says. "Films and television programmes like *Silence of the Lambs* and *Cracker* have made people more aware of investigative psychology, but they are very misleading," he says.

"Investigative psychology is not about an individual genius acting on a hunch — what I call 'hit and run experts'. It is the scientific study of criminal behaviour that is relevant to police investigations."

Blood coup



FRENCH medical research workers have found a possible way of treating sickle cell anaemia, a genetic disease found mostly among Afro-Caribbean people. The condition is caused by a single mutation in the gene responsible for making haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying protein in red blood cells. The

mutation has survived for thousands of years because carrying a single copy of it confers resistance to malaria. But if two carriers marry, their children risk inheriting both copies of the gene, producing a condition that is often fatal.

The mutation causes the cells to curl up into a sickle shape, blocking their passage through the blood vessels and reducing their oxygen-carrying ability. Just one incorrect amino-acid in a protein that contains 174 of them is sufficient to cause this result.

Putting right this defect directly by gene therapy would be difficult. Haemoglobin makes up about 90 per cent of the red blood cells, and there are several billion of these cells in the body, so the therapy would have to be carried out on a heroic scale. No method at present envisaged could easily insert the corrected gene in sufficient quantity to do the job.

The French researchers, led by Marie-Claude Garel from the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) at Créteil, propose instead an indirect form of gene

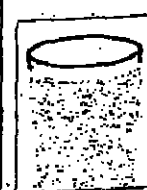
therapy. They suggest interfering with the process by which the abnormal haemoglobin clumps together, by enhancing the power of an enzyme called phosphatase in the cells.

This enzyme degrades a small molecule, called 2,3-diphosphoglycerate, which plays a major part in the agglutination of the haemoglobin. The more that can be degraded, therefore, the less the haemoglobin will clump, and the milder the symptoms of the disease.

Changing a single amino acid in the enzyme, the French team reports in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, is sufficient to increase its power almost 30-fold. This prevents the defective haemoglobin from clumping, at least in the test-tube. The next step will be to try it in mice, and if that works, in man, using gene therapy to modify the enzyme.

Not only that: the team believes that the same technique might be useful in much commoner conditions, such as heart disease, where oxygen supply to the tissues has been degraded.

Heady brew



LAGER drinkers who are distressed by the flatness of their pint should not necessarily exorcise the brewers. The reason could be that the glass they're drinking from is just too clean.

To maintain a head on lager, bubbles of carbon dioxide must break out of solution and rise to the surface in a steady stream. To do so, the bubbles need a surface on which to begin forming, a process called nucleation. A tiny scratch, imperfection, or particle of grit is all that is needed. Unfortunately, dish-washers get glasses almost too clean. All that may be left is a smooth surface of detergent molecules.

A glassware company in Hertfordshire has now designed a glass with a deliberately roughened area at the base, which also serves as a logo. The result, the company claims, is a pint that keeps its head longer.

Every year thousands of objects hurtle through the Earth's orbit. Sir Bernard Lovell considers the chances of one of them causing a cataclysm

Will a space rock destroy the world?

The collision of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with the planet Jupiter in July has stimulated interest in the consequences of a similar celestial impact with the Earth. No doubt this would be cataclysmic. Indeed, throughout the Earth's geological history, our ecosystem and the evolution of life has been critically affected by such impacts.

In 1980, the American scientist Luis Alvarez proposed that such an impact 65 million years ago caused a global pall of dust that led to the mass extinction of life forms on Earth, including the dinosaurs. That extreme view is not generally accepted. There is evidence that a massive impact, or impacts, occurred at that epoch, causing great destruction in the southern hemisphere. But in the northern hemisphere the faunal transitions were gradual, not cataclysmic.

The scientific and public interest aroused by this proposal of Alvarez led the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) to orga-



Sir Bernard Lovell

nise a series of "workshops" on the physical and human consequences of the collision of comets and asteroids with the Earth. Subsequently, the US House Committee on Science, Space and Technology directed Nasa to undertake a detailed study of the entire problem, including the possible use of rocket technology to intercept and divert a comet

or asteroid found to be on a collision course with the Earth.

These reports make sombre reading. It is estimated that about 2,000 asteroids with diameters greater than one kilometre exist which cross the orbit of the Earth. A collision with Earth would release energy equivalent to more than 100,000 megatons of TNT, leading to crop failure and mass mortality.

Objects of this size pass between the Earth and the Moon every few decades and a quarter of them may eventually collide with the Earth — on the average once per 100,000 years. Comets in short-period orbits around the Sun present a similar danger but add only 1 per cent numerically to the asteroid hazard.

Comets with periods of more than 20 years pass between the Earth and the Moon about once per century. The Earth can pass through the tail of these comets without noticeable effect, but a collision with the nucleus, which may occur every few hundred thousand years, could be more devastating than the impact of the large asteroids.

In the case of the asteroids and other objects with diameters less than a kilometre, impacts with the Earth are unlikely to be cataclysmic in the global sense of posing a danger to the survival of life on Earth. On the other hand, there are believed to be some 300,000 objects in the size range of 100 metres to one kilometre which intersect the Earth's orbit. Impact of one of these with the Earth would release energy equivalent to 20-100,000 megatons TNT and are estimated to occur every few hundred years.

There is considerable dispute amongst the authorities who are involved in these

studies as to which class of impact should cause us most anxiety. The cataclysmic impacts with the large asteroids occur at rare intervals in the history of the Earth. The more frequent impacts with the small bodies cause severe local damage — equivalent to the explosion of large nuclear weapons. A body of only 10 metres diameter entering the atmosphere would be equivalent to the explosion of several Hiroshima-size bombs.

The devastation caused by these impacts is well illustrated in the case of the cosmic body about 60 metres in diameter which exploded in the sky over Siberia in the early morning of June 30, 1908. Two thousand square kilometres of forest in the Tunguska region were flattened.

The combined effects of blast and fire were similar to those to be expected from a nuclear detonation in the atmosphere. If a similar event occurred over an urban area today many hundreds of thousands of people would be killed and the damage would



A close-up of the surface of Ida. The hundreds of craters are caused by impacts with other objects in space

be measured in hundreds of billions of pounds.

The alarm bells have only recently sounded about these dangers. There are two reasons. One is the rapid increase in the discovery of asteroids or other near-Earth objects (NEOs) and the other that with modern rocket technology it would be possible to divert an object found to be on

a collision course with the Earth.

The first asteroid was discovered in 1801 and many thousands are now listed. Most of them are moving in orbits around the Sun, principally in the region between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter and do not present a terrestrial hazard. However, in 1932 the asteroid Apollo was discovered

to be crossing the orbit of the Earth and later two others — Adonis and Hermes — passed uncomfortably close to the Earth. Today it is believed that 2,000 asteroids with diameters greater than one kilometre and more than 100 million smaller asteroids, or fragments, with diameters of 10 metres or more, cross the Earth's orbit.

Only a few per cent of the orbits of the small diameter objects are known. The Spaceguard Survey, issued by Nasa in 1992, proposed a programme by which, in 25 years, more than 90 per cent of the potentially threatening objects of one kilometre size or more and many thousands of the smaller objects could be identified. Six telescopes of aperture 2.5 metres are proposed at a cost of \$50 million (£33 million), with operating costs of \$10m per year.

For two years the Spaceguard Survey report failed to stimulate any significant response then, within days of the collision of the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet with Jupiter, the United States Con-

gress introduced an amendment to the Nasa Authorisation Bill, directing that a programme should be produced by February 1995 for the identification within ten years of all comets and asteroids with diameter greater than one kilometre which cross the Earth's orbit.

Already the arguments have begun as to the extent to which one should be fatalistic and do nothing. Estimates that during a lifetime there is a one in 10,000 chance that the Earth will suffer a cataclysmic collision are held to be a very small risk compared with the many other terminal risks to life in the contemporary world. The costs of diverting asteroids of various sizes are being compared unfavourably with the cost of restoring terrestrial damage. The energy needed to divert a major asteroid would require a nuclear explosion in space and in the next century the world may well be faced with a moral dilemma of celestial dimensions.

● The author is a leading radio astronomer and the founder of the Jodrell Bank observatory.

The future is just a load of horse manure

Charles Bremner explains why the futurology business is so unpredictable

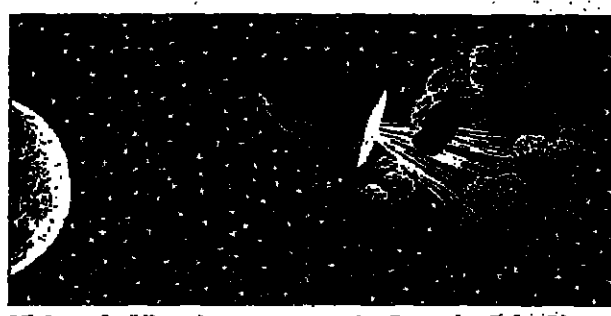
How appropriate that the Verne family should have waited until this *fin de siècle* before publishing Jules's predictions on Paris life of 1963. Written in 1863, his *Paris au XXème Siècle* is a grim place of machines and decaying culture which seems to be an uncanny forecast not just of scientific progress but of the "future shock" that afflicts our own times. At the time, Verne's publisher found the forecast too bleak and left the young writer to get on with *Voyages Extraordinaires* that were in keeping with the progressive mood of the age.

That darker vision by the prescient Victorian fits nicely with the prevailing pessimism as we near the end of this century. When it comes to the seeing business, few these days are predicting anything radiant. Starting on the religious end, Daniel and the Book of Revelations scheduled Armageddon for December 1999, according to American fundamentalists. Martin Luther, we are told, also ticked off the same date in his calendar.

On the astrological side, Nostradamus warned us that in 1999, "From the Sky will come a great King of terror".

New Age devotees are certain of the imminence of the anguish, earthquakes and economic collapse which must precede the Age of Aquarius. More embedded in the collective psyche is the pop culture future. Thanks to movies such as *Mad Max*, *Blade Runner* and their imitators, we expect a post-urban wasteland, a high-tech junkyard.

The apocalyptic myth has also been eagerly seized by Cyberpunk authors and more serious writers, from Carlos Fuentes to Martin Amis (in *London Fields*) and this month by Jacques Attali, the French thinker and former boss of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. *Il Viendra*, Attali's nightmare, is set in a Britain which has collapsed into anarchy under Lady Francesca Roberts, a fiendish dictator who happens to have the



Vision of a Victorian star gazer: *La Lune*, by Jules Verne

maiden name of Margaret Thatcher.

But there is no need to be too gloomy, since the future has a habit of turning out far more ordinary than the forecasts. If you grew up in the 1950s and 1960s, the alternate futures could be summed up by space rockets and atomic bombs.

Either we would be skimming in silent hover-cars around cities run by giant electronic brains, or we would be living in post-nuclear, totalitarian hell as served up by George Orwell and his successors.

None of those seems, even as late as the 1970s, managed to predict the revolution of the personal computer, the liberating impact of the information age or of the collapse of communism. The same can be said for the new Ice Age, so confidently expected in the 1970s.

The prediction process usually goes awry because it is based on extrapolating the present and mixing it with the dreams and fears of the age. Extending the present can be embarrassing if you fail to

imagine technological revolution, as did the man who predicted in the 19th century that the European cities were destined to suffocate in horse manure.

Prophesying the consequences of technology has always been a case of extending the present. Nobody ever seems to have had the genius to imagine the invention of television, or the microchip along with the social revolutions they wrought. Orally, 1984 was really the late 1940s exaggerated to the point of satire.

The most successful "futurologists" have been those, like Verne and Wells, who, avoiding both utopia and apocalypse, managed to sort out technical trends which had already appeared and guessed their social impact. Verne's work gave birth to the term *literature d'anticipation*, a respected category in France which is different from the more fanciful science fiction. It made good headlines: last

week to claim that Verne had "predicted" cars, the Metro, fax machines and low-grade mass entertainment, but the outlines of all these were already in circulation when he wrote, as were submarines and rockets.

Given the record, it is surprising that futurology has never thrived so strongly as it does today, with experts forecasting a future of bio-engineering, telecommuting and total information. At the University of Houston, they have even inaugurated a degree course in futures studies. They may spend their time cruising the cyber-highway on the Net (only the uncool refer to it as Internet) but the rituals of the new futurologists would be as recognisable to a time-travelling Culliver as those of the wizards of Laputa.

However, the 1990s futurologists have one advantage over the ancients: useful new expressions such as chaos theory, they have a battery of scientific excuses for getting it wrong.

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THOMAS CARLYLE

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ENTERTAINING CHALLENGING STIMULATING ENJOYABLE TLS

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Giles Coren meets the designer of Cardiff Bay Opera House

Small notes of triumph

Zaha Hadid's winning design did not just beat the architectural opposition — it also beat the system

Zaha Hadid is the most famous Iraqi woman in Britain. When she won the international competition to design the £43 million Cardiff Bay Opera House, future home of the Welsh National Opera, it was a triumph not only for modernism, but also for a woman who had previously been described as a "wild and untamed" and an "unfathomable fantasist".

Seeing off 267 fellow competitors, including Sir Norman Foster and Tetsuko Hasegawa, Hadid impressed with her radical perceptions of the nature of space, breaking away from the symmetrical block form traditional in opera house design. Auditorium and foyers were placed in a quadrangle surrounded by a glazed "necklace of ancillary buildings", and the fly tower was made to disappear.

"The fact that it is this sort of a building that has won, and that I am a woman, is kind of a double-whammy for the establishment," Ms Hadid chuckles with a glee that bubbles through her attempts to acknowledge the "team-work" that went into the design. Only 8 per cent of Britain's architects are women, a pitiful representation compared with medicine or the law, and Hadid knows she will be getting all the attention.

"Women are not necessarily unsuited to architecture," she says. "A lot of them go to architecture school and do very well. It is afterwards that difficulties arise. The industry is male dominated and there is a sense of a private world which you cannot enter, no matter what you do."

According to Ms Hadid, things are better in Saddam Hussein's Iraq. This comes as a surprise to westerners, she says, and although she has not been back since 1980 many of her female friends are working as architects in a post-revolution society that encourages women to pursue scientific and technical careers. "I was a member of the shortage of women, who were away during the 1980s and 1990s."

Ensnared in her enormous open-plan office in Clerkenwell, with at least half a dozen staff on hand, even at 7pm on a Friday, to leap or cower at every flicker of her eyebrow, she seems to have found a way to beat the British system. Scale models and maps are spread over every surface, and there is the atmosphere of a strategy room at Bomber Command in a Second World War propaganda movie.

She was born in Baghdad in 1950. "My father was an economist who studied at LSE and worked in Iraq as an economic adviser and



Zaha Hadid: at least half a dozen staff on hand, even at 7pm on a Friday, to leap or cower at every flicker of her eyebrow

industrialist," she says. "My brothers both went to Cambridge. It was a very liberal family, and I was encouraged to pursue my career."

This is no story of humble beginnings — Rolls-Royces, it is said, lined Bedford Square when proud relatives came to view her diploma show at the Architectural Association.

"I went to boarding school in Beirut and in 1972 I came back to London to do my five years at the association." Subsequent highlights included a commission for a men's club in Hong Kong that was never built, and a controversial fire station (which was built) for the German company, Vitra.

Hadid's imposing physique and personality have earned her a reputation for eccentricity. "At school my behaviour and thinking were seen as irrational — it was rather liberating. I never cared about dogma, or what people thought of me. There was no

prejudice then. They thought I was fun. I had funny clothes and had travelled the world. When English people meet a foreigner they see something strange and put up barriers, but once I was accepted I could become part of the family, and be invited to their country houses."

"Professionally, that condition continues, and being a woman and non-British has its advantages. If you are seen as unusual or eccentric they let you do what you want. It was only after the Gulf War that the prejudice became apparent. Until then nobody had looked at me twice." For all her self-confidence and radical convictions, there are areas on which Zaha Hadid prefers to remain silent. "I was saddened by the war, it didn't serve any purpose and it should have been avoided at all costs. But I don't tend to discuss that side of things."

Hadid talks of the Islamic world

"It is like a private world which you cannot enter"

with affection. "I feel culturally, like an Arab, because I am one. The Arab world is rich in intellect and talent, as well as resources. There is no reason why they shouldn't get their act together. I was born into a Muslim family, but I was educated by nuns and lived in the West. I am not particularly an Arab, but I am definitely not a westerner."

Hadid has lived in London, nonetheless, for more than 20 years. "It is rather a boring city, which is fine for me because I'm here to work. It isn't a city to bum around in like Paris or Berlin. It's

calm, people leave you alone. I often wonder whether I should be here or somewhere else."

She is equally ambivalent on the subject of the Prince of Wales. "His criticism of the British architectural scene was pretty okay, but his remedy — to copy the past in order to go forward — was not right. The scene has been dire for some time. Post-modernism has been an excuse for some terrible stuff, pseudo-verbal, pseudo-sensitive, but actually appalling, low-quality work. The English should begin to think about their cities as cities, not as villages. They must accept the metropolitan condition, and not see what is urban as necessarily terrible."

Ms Hadid looks to the Arab world to illustrate her central concern. "The opera house may be modern, but if you take the old medina at Tunis, for example, and extract the diagram, it is also very modern. It depends on your interpretation. The idea of tradition, through time, becomes manifest in different ways. And that is the way it should be."

When girls head off for the hills

The New Age travellers are taking over from raggle-taggle gypsies

A VICTORIAN value is back among us: or at least, the shadow and the dread of one. Girls are fleeing the protection of their parents to run off with the raggle-taggle gypsies. Or at least, their parents dread that they might. Scanning the headlines national and local over the last couple of months, I swear I have read at least 20 stories about schoolgirls running off with New Age travellers.

Sometimes, the girl turns out to have done no such thing, but shackled up in dispiritingly modern style with the usual sort of boyfriend. Sometimes she turns up the next day. Sometimes she is away for a week or more; leaving parents, like the couple in my local paper at the moment, miserably describing to reporters the "typical 14-year-old" life she led, of homework in the bedroom and *Home and Away* on the box. Even *The Archers*, reliable barometer of Middle England's angst, has caused Kate Aldridge to flee to an encampment in Wales. Which is interesting, because the scriptwriters have been slowly chewing their way through all the New Age bogeyman stories, including the accusation that the Van People might give the cows TB. And now they have got round to twanging the oldest nerve of all: the fear that not only will these people invade your lands, derisive and cavalier, but that when they go you will find at dawn that your daughter has gone too. It is an old, old story, a song with many versions: "Oh, what care I for my house and lands? And what care I for money-oh? And what care I for my new-wedded lord? I'm gone with the raggle-taggle gypsies-oh!"

I do not make light of the terror that afflicts parents when a daughter runs away, or even of the terror that she might. But since for every girl who bolts from a comfortable home to live in a rusty van in Wessex there must be hundreds who day-dream about it, it is worth thinking about the motives. And since this particular form of flight has such folk-memory behind it, we could do worse than suspend the terror for a moment and attempt to share the dream.

What is deep in girls that makes them fancy running off with the gypsies? Why, in suburban country-and-western clubs, do middle-aged women go misty-eyed when some chap sings: "Say, has anybody seen my sweet gypsy Rose? Here's her

picture when she was my own Mary-Jo." It is not because they feel sorry for the chap singing, oh no. It is, I submit, because they have had a hunch of being someone's tame Mary-Jo, and hanker briefly for the open road. Just as they did as girls; just as plenty of housewives did in the days of the benders on Greenham Common. Yes, of course they were making a political point, but didn't they look happy out there with their grubby brown babies? A few, at least, were getting the old gypsy buzz out of it.

Boys have a tradition of running away, too: off to sea, to the army, to the circus. But boys were — to some extent still are — urged to be active, to initiate, to hack their own path through life. Girls receive a thousand tiny signals warning them to do no such thing. Emerging from such childhood, we sense

the corset of adult womanhood closing in on us. Our own magazines, our own friends feed us stereotypes of career-girls and brisk working mothers, and we take them far too seriously. Just because nobody marries us off to dull lords in castles any more, it does not mean there are no suffocating expectations. I suppose today's runaway would sing: "Oh, what care I for my GCSEs? And what do I want with a briefcase-oh? And why should I be a credit to my school? I'm off with the New Age travellers-oh!"

AH, but why with the travellers? Here female biology and conditioning betray us. Girls value social structures: that is why they watch Australian soaps about people popping in and out of one another's kitchens. A girl's dream, unlike a boy's, rarely involves setting off alone with a spotted handkerchief and an expectation of becoming Lord Mayor.

A girl needs a troop, an alternative society, one which unlike her parents' appears to be — literally — going somewhere. Freely, under the sky, at one with the earth, all that. Go on, hum the song: remember the perverse, triumphant lilt in the lady's voice: "Last night I slept in a goose-feather bed, with the sheet turned down so bravely-oh! Tonight I'll sleep in a cold open field, along with the raggle-taggle gypsies, oh!"

Momentarily, share the dream. Admit it to your daughter. Such is adolescence that it might even put her off going.



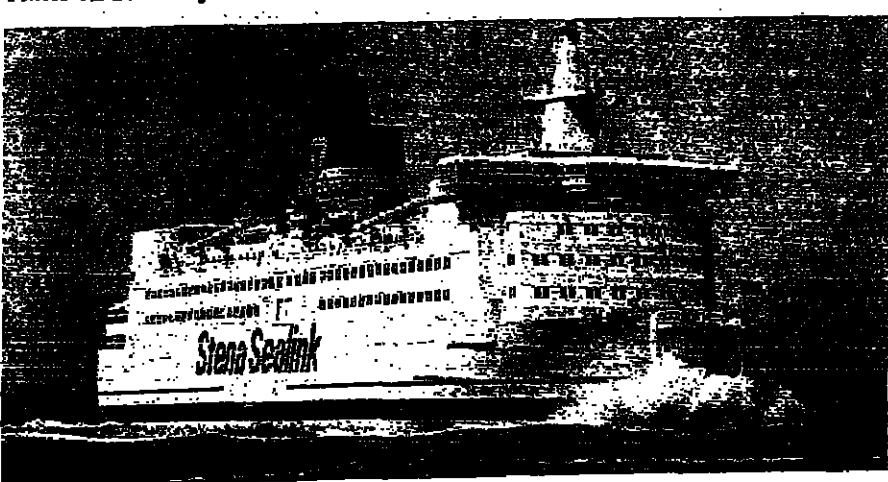
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The woman who wore scarlet tights

How Harriet Crawley found happiness in Mother Russia

There are two ways to describe the life of Harriet Crawley. Either you tell the story of a beautiful woman from a gilded family, who was a television presenter in her twenties, a tax-exiled art dealer in her thirties and the Conservative candidate for Brent East as she touched on 40, who succeeded in making a hefty dent in Ken Livingstone's majority.

Or there is the tale of the woman whose mother died in a car crash in 1983, whose two adored brothers were killed when their plane crashed into a mountain, who lost all her money in Lloyd's and whose political career was scuppered seven years ago, when she gave birth, unmarried, to a son, Spencer, and refused to name the father.

Either way, Crawley rarely bowed to convention. She wore scarlet tights when appearing before selection committees and only bought a suit after Virginia Bottomley suggested that it might win round the crusty *Tudor dames*. Even then she couldn't bring herself to wear it.

Yet alongside the rebel streak, Crawley always yearned for the security of marriage. "I'm the sort of person who should have been married young," she says. "I have not liked not being married. I feel it's unsatisfying and unsettling."

Married friends remarked



Crawley: rebel streak

enviously that it was her single status that allowed her to take Spencer trekking in Nepal, write a novel about single mothers and stand (unsuccessfully) for the European Parliament. And then, two years ago, she decided that it would be a good ploy to learn Russian. She employed a tutor called Gleb Shestakov, who was doing a D Phil at Balliol, and last summer she married him.

And so, as Crawley, 46, admits blushing, we have the happy ending. "I'd like to think that some people have periods that are specially happy and I'd like to think it's now for me."

Which is not to say that the adventures are over. Crawley's parents — her father, Aidan, was a politician and chairman of London Weekend Television, her mother the war corres-

pondent, Virginia Cowles — would regularly dump her in a school in Vienna, Paris or Rome and make her stay till she learnt the language. The result is a woman who cannot stay still. At the beginning of the month, her new family moved to a village outside Moscow. If all goes well, they will stay for the next two years.

Gleb is writing a book about Siberia and Spencer has been enrolled in a Russian school. "He's so jolly, I say: 'What happened at school today?' and he says: 'How would I know, it was all in Russian?' His little friends hadn't heard of Arsenal, but they have now."

His mother, meanwhile, will learn the language at a slower pace, battle with the day to day turmoils of getting her washing machine plumbed in and at some point intends to write a book.

She is back in London this week looking for a kitchen swing bin, currently unavailable in Russia, and to launch her novel, *Painted Lady*, a thriller set in the art world, which she has managed to knock out at some point. The book is a long way from Crawley's preferred reading — "really good literature" — but it is an easy and entertaining read.

Movie moguls attempting to buy the rights should bear in mind, however, that when it comes to tragedy, drama and happy endings nothing could beat the life of Harriet Crawley.

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH
● *Painted Lady* is published by Macmillan, £14.99.



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Matthew Parris



As parts of the UK take control of their destinies, the English majority should not be left behind

If this United Kingdom really is a union, then surely changes are for all its constituent parts to decide? As news of John Major's plan for a referendum in Northern Ireland sank in last week, and Liberal Democrats renewed their pledges of regional assemblies for Scotland and Wales, correspondents in *The Times* have asked, shouldn't the rest of the United Kingdom be consulted in any referendum about the future of Northern Ireland? I shall put that case, and the counter-argument.

Maintaining the union brings both costs and benefits to us all. The bulk of the cost of the administration, policing and subsidy of the province of Northern Ireland is raised in English taxes. Soldiers killed there are often Scots, Welsh or English. Terrorism affects everyone in Great Britain as well as Northern Ireland.

These are costs. But there may be benefits too. Some in England and Wales, and many in Scotland, may feel the ties of sentiment or obligation towards Northern Ireland. Others may disagree with Mr Major when he says we have no selfish interest in the province. Who knows, Ulster could yet prove a winner: the economy may revive or oil be discovered.

Breaking (or weakening) the union also brings possible costs and benefits — again to all of us. Some of us think of the money to be saved. Others fear a Protestant terrorist backlash here on the mainland. Relationships with the United States and with our EC partner Southern Ireland would probably improve.

These are all reasons why every Scot, Welshman or Englishman may have not only an opinion but a potentially large stake in alterations to the union. Whether negative or positive, it can be argued that this stake entitles us to be consulted.

But there is a strong counter-argument. Northern Ireland is not a possession, ally or colony. Its people constitute a free and equal member country of a union, and membership is the *status quo*. Membership of a union implies a commitment by members to stand by each other and their association. Should a member wish, of his own free will, to quit the association, then that is for him. But it is not for his partners to ballot among themselves about whether he should stay or go.

A referendum taken within Northern Ireland therefore enjoys a special status. It would trump any referendum taken among those whose departure from the union is not in the balance. No more than with Scotland or Wales can the primary decision be other than one for its inhabitants. Put

Free of the Celtic burden, England will again be a nimble mercantile power

bluntly: the UK cannot chuck out any of its members against their will. I buy this argument. It is an amusing mischief to contend that we English jolly well ought to be asked whether we want Northern Ireland in or out, but it is an insulting way to treat a partner. It is not for England (for we English are the overwhelming majority) to decide who stays.

That is why as an Englishman I cannot propose that the people of Northern Ireland, should leave the union. They obviously want to stay and are perfectly entitled to remain. It is the English whom I propose should leave. We are indeed entitled to a referendum too, but not about whether they go, which is up to them, but whether we stay, which is not. If, as the Celts are forever whingeing, the United Kingdom is not "England plus", if we are not the boss, if this really is a union of equals, a joint-enterprise without masters, then the departure of England is perfectly consistent with the continuance of the union. This would

become the United Kingdom (or Union, if they dispensed with royalty) of Wales, Ulster and Scotland: UKWUS. Good luck to them. After all, Ulster was mostly settled by Scots, and Scotland provides the bulk of mainland unionist sentiment. Let them provide the money too. As for the Welsh, anything that gives them something new to complain about will be welcomed.

The opposition parties — both Celtic-dominated — are proposing that after the next election Wales and Scotland will have national assemblies while England will not, being instead split up into "regions". This is divide-and-rule by Celts and must be fought. We must insist on home rule.

The first advantage is that we will be able to see where our taxes are going — to the Celtic fringe in buckets, as now. This will inflame the struggle for the autonomy to raise and spend our own revenue in England. Then our assembly will become a properly devolved parliament. The next step will be to leave the United Kingdom altogether. In doing so we will be able to get shot of our crazy military expenditure and world commitments. Shorn of the (rather recent) burden of being "Britain", England will be able to revert to a happier, bygone role. As in Elizabethan times, we shall become a nimble, expedient, talented and mercantile nation, revelling in the irresponsibilities and opportunities of an unashamedly second-rank power.

In two bounds we shall be free. You think I'm joking? You wait.

Penalising the rich may be emotionally satisfying for Labour, but it makes bad economics

Can we trust Tony Blair on tax?

William Rees-Mogg

The biggest contrast between the Labour and Conservative parties is obvious enough: for the past 50 years Labour has been the party of "tax and spend", like the Democrats in the United States or the Social Democrats in Poland; until Nigel Lawson's budget of 1988, the Conservative were the party which did not believe in "tax and spend" — but taxed and spent all the same. Between them, in those 50 years, they maintained confiscatory marginal rates of income tax, introduced and raised capital gains tax and imposed high rates of estate duty.

By so doing they robbed two generations, particularly of managers and professionals, of their life savings. It was impossible to save significantly out of the net income left after taxes which went up to 98 per cent. This cost the British economy an enormous sum in lost investments — the private savings that were diverted and spent by the Government of the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s would now have had a value of hundreds of billions of pounds, and would be supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs. The inadequacy of savings in the post-war period has been one of the prime causes of the relative decline of the British economy. It is of course those with high incomes who save the most, if only they are allowed to do so.

These of us exposed to this tax regime are not going to forgive the Labour Party for this, nor do we feel warmly about the memory of those Conservative governments, from Churchill to Heath, which avoided the issue. I do not recall what I was earning at different times, but, not surprisingly, I can remember that in January 1967 Sir William Haley told me what I was to be paid to edit *The Times*. That was £10,500 — not much for editing a newspaper, even in those

days. I think Harold Evans got the same for editing *The Sunday Times*. Labour was in office; the marginal rate of tax on salaries at our level was, if memory serves, 85 per cent. Over the decades there were millions of people in much the same situation as we were.

The latest figures from the Inland Revenue show how inefficient these levels of taxation were, even in terms of the revenue they produced. In 1978, under the last Labour government, the marginal rate of income tax was still extremely high. The top 1 per cent of taxpayers were then paying 11 per cent of the total tax received by the Exchequer. In 1993-94, with the marginal rates of tax about half of what they were in 1978, the top 1 per cent of taxpayers paid 15 per cent of the total. Lower taxes produced more revenue. The higher taxes are, the more people will avoid taxable income. In the 1980s that was conclusively true in Britain, in the United States and many other countries.

The emotional basis for confiscatory taxation was the belief of the early socialists that it is only fair to take away most of the income of high earners or capital owners. It is no new discovery that in a democracy the poor will tend to vote to tax the rich. This political pressure was reinforced by an error in economic theory of Maynard Keynes. The early classic economists, particularly Turgot and Adam Smith, had correctly identified the links between high

saving, high investment and economic growth — links equally apparent in late-18th-century Britain and late 20th-century Japan. Keynes thought that the slump of the 1930s had been caused by the over-saving of the rich, and so advocated high taxation and government expenditure to balance what he regarded as a deficit in demand. This theory has been disputed even in respect of the early 1930s, but was wildly inappropriate to conditions after the Second World War, or indeed now. Over-saving has

not been a problem in Britain since 1939: under-saving has consistently damaged our economy. The modern world is suffering from a shortage of capital, caused by the simultaneous recovery of the West from the recession and rapid industrial development of major Asian economies, with a combined population of some 2.5 billion people. Although the greatest expansion is on the other side of the world, we are now experiencing the largest investment boom the world has ever known, transforming the lives of half the world's population. The shortage

of capital can be measured by unprecedentedly high real long-term interest rates, which are now close to 7 per cent in Britain. Even if the British did more of their own saving, these interest rates would exercise a depressing effect on our economy. They do not reflect the fear of future inflation, as is often said, so much as the shortage of world capital.

An increasing share of modern investment is made by tax-free funds, which now run into trillions of dollars. Onshore tax-free pension funds account for about 40 per cent of stockmarket holdings in Britain. Of the larger personal investment funds, it is estimated that 20 per cent are now held offshore, because they pay less tax, both types of untaxed funds grow much faster. The fully-taxed private investor, who has built up his own savings out of post-tax income, is an endangered species in Britain.

On Saturday, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, made an attack on Conservative financial policy from a point of view unfamiliar for Labour. He pointed out that the Tories have failed to reduce public expenditure, which remains at the level of 44 per cent which it reached at the end of the last Labour government, in 1979. If the Conservatives had been able to hold public expenditure at the 1979 level in real terms, the budget would be £73 billion better. Instead of a deficit, there would be surplus of about £36 billion, or taxes could have been cut

That £73 billion can be compared with last year's total income tax yield of £88 billion.

Tomorrow, Tony Blair is expected to tell a conference on "New Policies for a Global Economy" that the Labour Party has rejected "the old tax, spend and borrow" policies, together with Keynesianism and corporatism. Gordon Brown is at least hinting that Labour will introduce, as they say, "no new taxes". Both leaders will argue that it is the Conservative Party which is incapable of operating a modern, dynamic market economy.

There are obstacles in Tony Blair's path. He has a dominant position as leader, but even his Shadow Cabinet is not short of high spenders, high taxers, Keynesians and corporatists. The Liberal Democrat conference, which debated whether the top rate of tax should be 50 or 60 per cent, shows that the old high-tax policies are still alive in "progressive" politics. In the United States, Bill Clinton talks about being "a new Democrat", but he has turned out to be a very familiar type of Democrat.

Tony Blair's problem is trust. His proposed policies are right, perhaps even inevitable. Yet he comes from the party which has loved high taxation for its own sake. He leads the party of Hugh Gaitskell, of James Callaghan, of Roy Jenkins and Denis Healey, each of whom was a confiscatory, high-tax, Keynesian Chancellor. Tony Blair may not have much to fear from the Conservatives, who failed to control public expenditure, mismanaged the last boom, mismanaged the recession, mismanaged the exchange-rate mechanism (to which Kenneth Clarke is pointing to return — down, boy, down) and has raised taxes. But Labour's record is one of 50 years of support for hyper-taxation. Can Count Dracula be cured of his taste for blood?

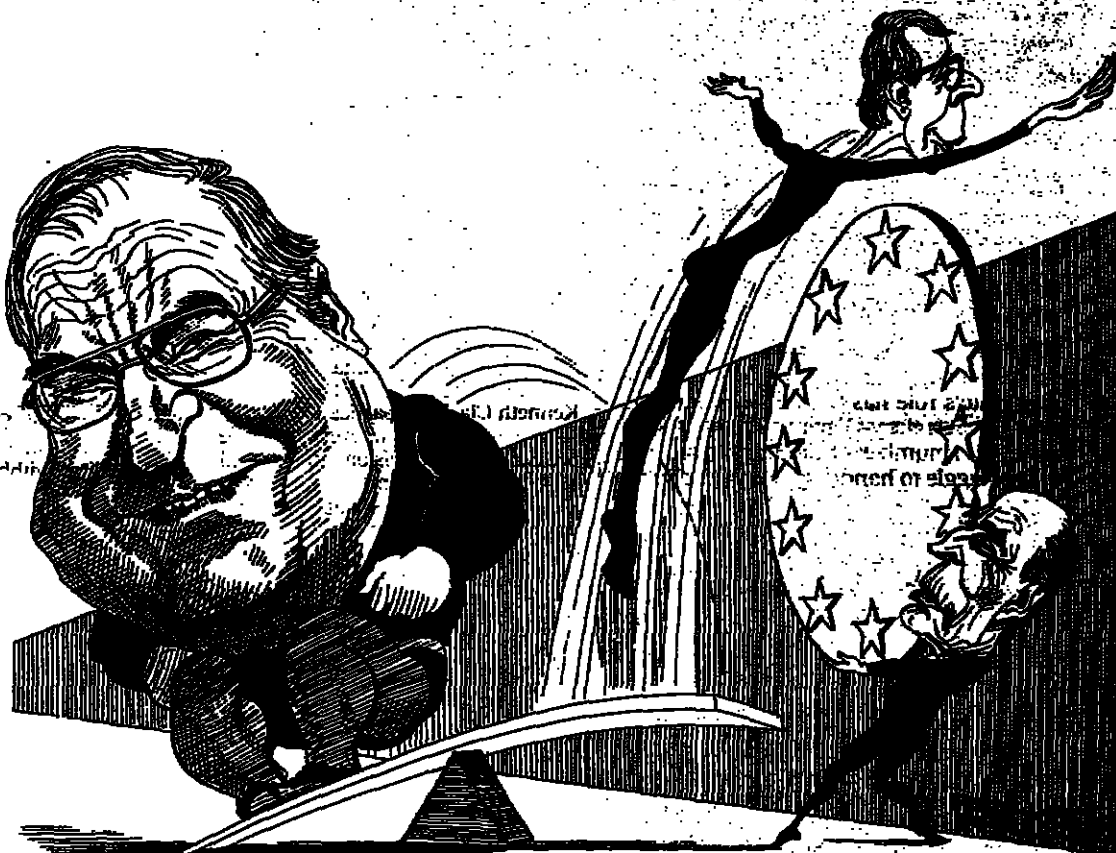
Scepticism crosses the floor

Party lines on Europe are being redrawn once again, writes Peter Riddell

Europe could be decisive as well as divisive at the next election. The two are linked, since an inter-governmental conference on the future of the European Union is planned for 1996. The Government believes that nothing will happen, and that even if something does it will not be bad for Britain. That Panglossian attitude has been proved wrong in the past and has begun to look suspect again. Recent proposals from Christian Democrat leaders in Germany and from Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, have reopened the debate about European integration, and there are also signs that Jacques Santer wants to be an active President of the European Commission.

John Major and Tony Blair are shaping up to take markedly different positions on Europe. They drew contrasting impressions from recent talks with Mr Santer. Mr Major regards him as on the same wavelength, in thinking that now is the time for consolidation after the Maastricht upheavals. By contrast, Mr Blair concluded that the incoming President strongly favours further progress towards a single currency around a Franco-German core.

Mr Major believes the tide of opinion is moving his way: away from further integration and towards decentralisation, inter-governmental co-operation and flexible markets. Mr Blair believes that Europe will be an increasingly important issue. He argues that if the British Government imagines that it can slow everything down by hanging back, it is wrong: a single currency could happen despite us. So Britain should try to influence these decisions.



Mr Major has a point. The Maastricht battles have caused the centralists to pause. The German Christian Democrat proposals were in part a response to tensions between Bonn and Paris over the future of Europe and issues such as free trade and enlargement. German public opinion is also highly uncertain, while many in France sympathise with British opposition to further centralisation.

The Foreign Office may be right to think that the 1996 conference will largely be a tidying-up exercise to deal with the consequences of the current enlargement. But there are worries in Whitehall about German proposals to give the European Parliament even greater powers at the expense of the council of ministers and national legislatures. Much will depend on the outcome

of the German elections next month and of the French presidential elections next spring (or even earlier if President Mitterrand dies). These will affect the speed with which new proposals are put forward. Spain, which takes over the presidency of the council of ministers next July, will arrange the agenda and timing of the conference: whether it is completed by June 1996 or spills over into 1997. This could determine the timing of the British election.

Britain faces the perennial risk of exaggerating the importance of sympathetic comments from Paris, and on different issues from Bonn, and underestimating the common French and German desire to push forward

the European Union. British doubts could help push France back towards Germany. Central to this is the apparently arcane argument about variable geometry. There is, of course, no uniformity now. Even leaving aside the British opt-out on the social chapter, varying groups of countries are involved in the Schengen agreement on internal frontiers and in the Western European Union. But there is a big difference between these arrangements and having a common goal of a single currency accepted by an inner core. In his Leiden speech three weeks ago, Mr Major said he recoiled from a two-tier Europe. He remains sceptical about whether the Germans and French will go ahead rapidly with a single currency, as opposed to talking about it, and he anyway stresses the British opt-out. Any other

course would split the Cabinet, possibly fatally.

Despite rumblings from pro-European Tories, Mr Major can hold his party together on this line before an election. He can sound the reasonable patriot, standing up for Britain, while not committing himself irrevocably for or against a single currency. Kenneth Clarke's economic policies are intended to ensure that Britain can fulfil the necessary conditions — on, for example, borrowing and inflation levels — so as to be able to enter a single currency by 1997 or 1999, but he will not force the issue now.

Tony Blair put himself clearly on the pro-European side of the fence during the leadership campaign in July. As his speech to the party on July 6 showed, he recognises the need to convince the public again of the case for stronger co-operation. No starry-eyed Euro-enthusiast, he argues that progress towards a single currency must be economically, not politically, driven.

The two leaders' speeches reveal contrasting attitudes to the recent problems of Europe. Over the past 15 months, Mr Major has adopted sceptical language, while Mr Blair believes it is possible to take a "positive" position. His advisers think that the public will respond to such a constructive lead rather than to nationalistic rhetoric.

So it is back again to that unresolved debate about Britain's role in Europe. Mr Major's predicament, though not yet Mr Blair's, is uncannily similar to that of Lord Callaghan in 1978-79, when the French President and German Chancellor, in alliance with President of the Commission, Roy Jenkins, proposed the close linking of currencies in the European Monetary System. After noting the economic objections, Lord Callaghan writes in his memoirs: "I could not travel fast. Many people in the Labour Party remained suspicious of what they thought was too close an entanglement with Europe." That was the period when Tony Benn, as a Cabinet minister, talked to a Tory MP about encouraging the Opposition to defeat the Government on the issue. The divisions remain; only the party labels change.

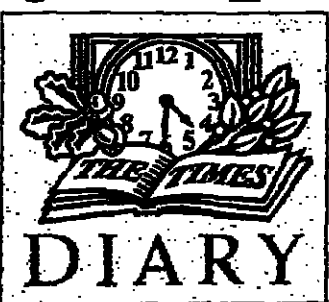
Queue jump

PRINCE EDWARD has gazumped both his mother and big sister, I learn, by nipping down to Pretoria to see Nelson Mandela. Her Majesty's first visit to South Africa for decades is pencilled into next year's diary, and the Princess Royal is going in November.

The purpose of Prince Edward's appearance at the presidential residence on Saturday, unmentioned in the Court Circular, was to put some questions to the South African President. Ardent Productions, of which His Royal Highness is joint managing director, has been commissioned by an Australian network to make a documentary about the Commonwealth.

Despite a 46-year age difference, the two men hit it off instantly. After the hour-long meeting in the president's small sitting room, Mandela nodded: "A most pleasant, clear-thinking young man." In turn, Prince Edward described his host as "charming and affable". But he chided a presidential aide: "He seems to have a perfectly manic schedule. You'll have to look after him better."

On the way out, Mandela showed Prince Edward the por-



traits hanging in the corridor. One depicted a former apartheid Minister of Native Affairs, Dr Ernest Jansen. "He was not the native who caused all the trouble, but the man who caused all the trouble for the natives," quipped Mandela.

But there was puzzlement over a painting of Prince Arthur of Connaught. Prince Edward confessed: "I ought to be able to tell you how he is related to me. But I'm afraid I cannot."

● If Jackie Shave, leader of the Brindisi String Quartet, was grasping her violin with special pride at the Wigmore Hall last

Thursday night, she had good reason. The performance of Schubert's Quintet was the debut for her new instrument, an 18th-century Deluca Cello valued at more than £75,000, which was given to her anonymously.

Blow the gaffe

FOLLOWING her tête-à-tête with John Major over Lord Wyatt's well-laden dinner-table, Baroness Thatcher will be turning her attention to the gaffe-prone Tory party chairman, Jeremy Hanley. She is to attend only Tuesday's session at the



party conference. So what is the main purpose of her flying visit? "I'm going to tell Jeremy," she is reported to be telling her circle.

Gaiety again

LOTS of jollities, I hear, are planned by the Garrick Club to celebrate the transformation of its premises. Nunc Wilcox, the cheerful chairman of the general committee, has informed members that a special party is planned in return for putting up with recent inconveniences. "We hope that our patron, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, may be able to come," he tells them.

Although Wilcox readily admits that parts of the Garrick Street building have looked "rather like bomb sites" recently while a lift was being installed and the basement was converted, he now promises "pleasures in store".

Hunt is on

BRAVE souls within Labour's ranks will be tallying among the comrades gathered in Blackpool next week to urge them to rethink their policy on our furred and feathered friends. The souls in question at the Labour fringe meeting belong to the founders of the

pro-hunting group Leave Country Sports Alone: Penny Mortimer, wife of barrister author John, and leading QC Lady Mallett — Old Bailey trials permitting.

Im-patient

UNFLATTERING comments at John Major's local hospital near Huntingdon should have his Health Secretary's ears ringing. For it seems that Virginia Bottomley's defence of the health service is not appreciated by the trust which took over the running of Hinchingbrooke Hospital two years ago under her reforms.



Bottomley: say again?

At its annual meeting last week, the chief executive, Merrick Willis, tried to justify why there are now 300 more people on the waiting list. "I'd hate to sound like Mrs Bottomley — and I hope I don't in any way," he said, "but while there are more people waiting, they are waiting less long — and we treat many more."

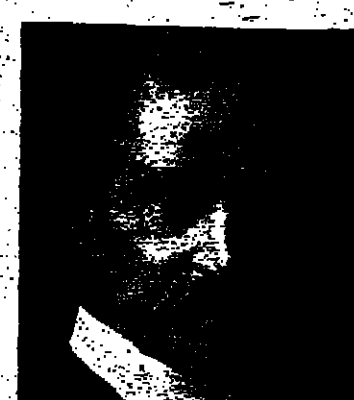
● Are the jet-set backing Blair? The smart invitation with silver engraving that British Airways has sent out for its annual reception at Labour's party conference in Blackpool is different. In one important respect this year. Guests will be offered champagne for the first time.

Unto himself

A VIRTUALLY forgotten Prime Minister is, at long last, to occupy a permanent niche in the House of Commons.

Poor Bonar Law, who occupied No 10 for just 204 days, has waited more than 70 years for this honour. Down in west Essex, Wiltshire, an equally obscure scholar, Anthony Griffiths, is burning a life-size bronze bust in a farm building belonging to the late Prime's grandson.

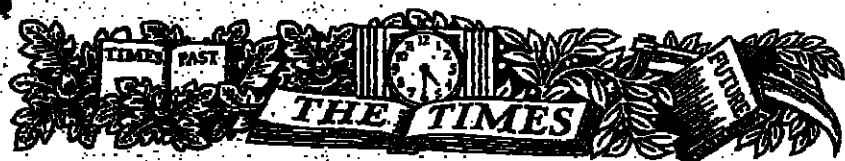
The splendidly ebullient Tory MP Patrick Cormack, who heads



Bonar Law: known at last

the Commons works of art committee, spotted the gap in the Commons, and approached the family. Bonar Law was dubbed "the unknown Prime Minister" by Asquith when he was buried in Westminster Abbey next to the anonymous warrior, and Robert Blake subsequently used the phrase as the title of his biography.

Sykes is chuffed. "We hope it will be placed in the smoking room, where he liked to retire at five o'clock, every afternoon with his pipe to play chess. It would be quite appropriate."



MATES VERSUS ADAMS

Britain must educate America on the Irish question

Britain has long needed a vigorous spokesman in America to defend its case on the Irish question. Unionist politicians have received politely but with little enthusiasm on their trips to the United States. In Washington, British diplomats have been unable to compete with the romantic nationalism of the Irish-American congressional lobby. Michael Mates, the former Northern Ireland minister, may not be the most charismatic champion of government policy that could have been hoped for. But his detailed knowledge of the affairs of the province should be a considerable asset in the propaganda battle.

At least for the moment, publicity has replaced violence as the main weapon of the republican movement. Mr Mates's task is to offer the American people an alternative to the shabby misrepresentations which will be repeated to them by Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin. Bill Clinton's decision to grant Mr Adams a visa in February was deeply regrettable, as was the admission to America last month of Joe Cahill, a convicted terrorist and republican figurehead. It is clear, however, that the President pays little heed to British sensitivities on this matter and that Mr Adams is now a welcome guest in the United States. Sinn Féin's influence must therefore be countered systematically.

Mr Mates should not be afraid to state the obvious. First, he must remind his hosts that Sinn Féin is the political wing of the world's most ruthless terrorist organisation. Mr Adams presents himself today as a man of diplomacy and letters; it should not be forgotten that in 1972 he was an official representative of the IRA in its talks with the Government. The American people need to be reminded of the appalling toll which the Troubles have taken on the British mainland as well as in Ulster itself. Mr Adams will present the British as intransigent

colonialists. He should be asked whether this alleged colonialism is so oppressive as to justify — for example — the murder of 12-year-old Tim Parry and three-year-old Johnathan Ball in the Warrington bombing last year.

Second, Mr Mates must make clear that the IRA ceasefire is welcome to the British Government but that its terms are still opaque. Mr Adams has no right to posture as a peacemaker and still equivocate on the permanence of the cessation. If Sinn Féin wants a seat at the conference table as much as its leaders profess, it must renounce violence without delay. There could be no better opportunity than Mr Adams's tour of America. Mr Mates must be uncompromising on this point.

The former minister should explain, thirdly, that reduction of the security forces — let alone withdrawal — is out of the question until the disarmament of Ulster's terrorist groups has been verified. The American government appears to assume that the ceasefire is an end rather than a tentative beginning. But as long as the Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries are armed and in control of their lucrative extortion rackets, the peace process will remain desperately vulnerable.

Sinn Féin is presenting itself on the global stage as the radical vanguard of a pan-nationalist pact that embraces the Dublin government, the SDLP and the republican movement. Mr Adams behaves as if peace was within his gift; he scorns the Prime Minister's support for a referendum in Ulster on its future. But Mr Mates must leave the Americans in no doubt that the British will never cede the province until it is absolutely clear that the majority of its population wish this to happen. This is unlikely to be the case in the foreseeable future. The sooner this awkward reality is grasped in America, the better.

A BELGIAN BUGGINS

Nato's likely new Secretary-General inspires no delight

One of the glaring flaws of liberal internationalism is the political recipe — to call it a principle would be to bless it with undeserved dignity — of Buggins's turn. The diplomatic chiefs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) have now conspired, with a clumsiness that masquerades as equitable practice, to make a stodge pudding. The successor as Secretary-General to the late Manfred Wörner — whose virtues have begun now to shine even more brightly — has been anointed. Nato's Buggins is Belgian: Willy Claes, the country's Foreign Minister and a Flemish socialist.

He had, it was apparent, to be Belgian — and this is the heart of the depressing matter — because his Prime Minister had failed in his bid for the presidency of the European Commission. It is indicative of the intellectual and strategic poverty of the method by which Mr Claes was chosen that his success was ensured by the failure of Jean-Luc Dehaene. And the convention by which the Secretary-General of Nato is always European, which an organisation of its standing and longevity should have outgrown, has meant that no American, however suitable, can be considered. Dick Cheney, the former Secretary of State for Defence, for one, would be a finer candidate than any European so far proposed.

The Secretary-General of Nato is Chairman of the North Atlantic Council, the Defence Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group. As the alliance's senior administrator, he has a broker's role in promoting consultation and securing consensus. Yet his backers have appeared unconcerned that Mr Claes has virtually no experience of defence affairs. It is also highly

disturbing that Mr Claes was opposed in the early 1980s to the stationing of cruise and Pershing missiles in Belgium and elsewhere in western Europe. Nato's military commanders will not be impressed.

Mr Claes is the wrong choice for the Secretary-General's job. In losing an identifiable adversary after the end of the Cold War, Nato's role has been called into question. Its Secretary-General must now do battle on a number of daunting fronts: he must struggle to handle sympathetically the apprehensions and claims of Eastern Europe, without puncturing Moscow's thin skin; he must construct an equation on peacekeeping and the enforcement of Security Council resolutions with the United Nations; and, perhaps most ticklish of all, he must constantly reassure Washington that the European Union's defence ambitions will not be realised at the expense of its Atlanticist bedrock. It is in view of this last task that Mr Claes's selection is most ill-judged.

Bill Clinton is the least Atlanticist American President Nato has ever had. As Anthony Lake, Mr Clinton's national security adviser, wrote recently, Washington is, "in Europe, deeply engaged in transforming Nato to fulfil President Clinton's vision of an integrated continent". Concurrently, Nato will have in Mr Claes its least Atlanticist Secretary-General to date; and he shares with Mr Clinton the view that deeper European integration can proceed while the transatlantic link is loosened. This is a disconcerting prospect for those who maintain — as does *The Times* — that without the American commitment to European security since 1945 there would have been no European Community worthy of the name.

PRIMARY INSPECTION

"Three Rs" for the Education Secretary

As our Education Correspondent reveals today, plans to perform incisive surgery on the methods for primary school inspections have been put together by government inspectors. Intended to simplify the complex and prescriptive template of the reformed system for school inspection — set in place last year by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) — the plans are driven by nothing more damning than common sense.

What is striking is that these plans were so long in coming. The scale of the reform of school inspection was enormous and its direction deserved applause. Schools would be inspected every four years, with a summary of the findings sent to parents. Parents were, at last, to be treated with the respect consumers deserve, and schools made to carry the weight of accountability. Yet certain problems should have been detected earlier. Inspections, as conceived, were to examine not just the teaching as delivered in the classroom, but also the educational policy of schools — a requirement which encompassed a vast landscape, from the assessment of pupils to the management of staff, and not all of it a suitable occupation of the time of school inspectors.

The new system came on stream for the country's secondary schools last year. Since there are only some 4,000 of them, the agenda for inspectors, though taxing, was not unworkable. Primary schools, however, number nearly 20,000: it is inconceivable that all of them could be inspected by 1997 — four years from the institution of the

reformed approach — as now required by law. To put the matter simply, not enough inspectors are bidding for contracts because there is too much to do for too little reward.

This is why the confidential review is of such import. Onerous requirements — which, while of consequence, need not constitute an inspector's central focus — are being eased off the agenda for inspection. Recognising that the classroom is the heart of a school, and not the headmaster's filing cabinet, or equal opportunity policies, inspections will focus most on the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic, the three victims of the long march of "progress".

Gillian Shepherd would do well to pay heed to a further refinement, which aims to free inspectors to devote greater time to those institutions which merit the closest scrutiny. Inspectors must be enabled to give a primary school a report of excellence if there is irrefutable evidence of high standards, thereby releasing it from the four-year cycle of inspection. Why waste time in schools which are successful when there is a job to be done in those which are not.

Chris Woodhead, the new head of Ofsted, must train his sights on the quality of reports produced for parents by inspectors. Too often for comfort, they are both riddled with jargon and timorous in the way in which they shy away from hard judgment. The purpose of the Government's reforms was to ensure better-run schools and better-informed parents. These will not be achieved until inspections are cut from finer cloth.

Case for nurses' pay increase

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing

Sir, *The Times* is advocating an approach to nurses' pay which assumes a far greater degree of decentralisation of health service resources than is likely or desirable even with the advent of the internal market (leading article, September 22).

Requiring managers with limited control over their budgets, and an overcrowded agenda of competing priorities, to enter the cauldron of local negotiations over pay, in more than 450 separate bargaining units, is a task for which many have little appetite and are ill-prepared.

The National Health Service depends for its success on the availability of an appropriately qualified nursing and medical workforce and this requires a strategic national overview of recruitment and retention trends for both general and specialist nurses.

Left to themselves, local trusts cannot be expected to take other than a short-term, parochial view of staffing needs. There is a real risk that we will fail to train and retain sufficient qualified nurses to meet patient needs. The review body structure provides a forum for independent analysis of recruitment trends and a national framework for determining nurses' pay which I believe is essential for the future effectiveness of the National Health Service.

Whilst I agree wholeheartedly that sensible trusts should offer nurses childcare and flexible working packages which will motivate a predominantly female workforce, experience to date is not encouraging. In the small number of trusts where local contracts have been introduced, there have been moves to shorten maternity and sick pay entitlements — the very factors on which nurses with young families rely.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE HANCOCK,
General Secretary,
Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, W1,
September 22.

From Pastor Anthony Carr

Sir, I see from *The Times* (report, September 21) that Kenneth Clarke says that any pay rises in the public sector will have to be found from efficiency savings. Could the Secretary of State for Health, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, confirm to the public at large and to Kenneth Clarke in particular that the figures she uses on every possible occasion, on television of several million more patients treated every single year do or do not apply during the pay round negotiations?

Under the new reforms the number of registered nurses is falling, and my naive mind thinks that with more patients treated and fewer nurses available, the nurses, and their supporting staff have already had their case proved by the Government.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY J. CARR,
11 Butler Road,
Solihull, West Midlands,
September 21.

From Mrs Lois Peltz

Sir, The Chancellor has said of public-sector employees that any rises will have to be found through efficiency savings. I understand further that there will be no "across the board" increase, and that rises will only be paid by individual local health trusts and authorities.

Surely this would apply to a greater extent to MPs and their pay rise, which by the same logic should not be "across the board" but assessed by the local interests that they have been elected to serve.

Sincerely yours,
LOIS PELTZ,
4 Connaught House, Mount Row, W1,
September 21.

Haitian example

From Mr M. J. Birchmore

Sir, Our former leader may have been deposed without reference to the people (Mr Goulet's letter, September 21), but she then decided not to seek re-election to the House of Commons. She now has a position of power and influence in the House of Lords with no mandate from the electorate.

American intervention to introduce democracy to this country by bringing about elected Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament might not be a bad thing.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BIRCHMORE,
Lyne Park,
West Linton, Peeblesshire,
September 21.

From Mr Garth Drinkwater

Sir, Jimmy Carter, perhaps a late developer, might be a success producing an acceptable result in the Balkans. Everyone else seems to have failed miserably.

Yours truly,
GARTH DRINKWATER,
Tyr Fain,
Llynon-Llanddeusant,
Holyhead, Gwynedd,
September 22.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Proper procedure in fraud trials

From Dr D. G. D. Wise

Sir, May I comment on Lord Rees-Mogg's article (September 22) concerning the use of juries in fraud trials.

A close family friend was recently found guilty of a complex fraud after a four-month trial. The jury were initially selected partly on the basis of their likely availability for a long trial. Inevitably this produced a bias towards elderly and unemployed jurors. I would not wish to denigrate their efforts to follow the complexities of the trial but a juror over 60 may have difficulty in following intricate financial details.

The jury deliberated for four days before coming to a majority verdict. After two days they returned to ask the judge what "intent to defraud meant". This had been dealt with at some length in the judge's summing up and was the whole basis of the trial.

I am sure the jury members were conscientious in their consideration of the case but surely the result was a lottery, after four months of confusing testimonies which would tax a jury of lawyers and accountants.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WISE,
3 Vale Avenue,
Grove, Wantage, Oxfordshire,
September 22.

From Lord Spens

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg mentions suggestions that serious and complicated fraud trials "should be heard by a judge sitting with qualified assessors". It is not generally known that just such a tribunal sat to consider the purchase of Guinness shares, and other transactions conducted on my behalf, in December 1988 — long before the start of any of the actual trials.

This tribunal, chaired by a judge assisted by two eminent City practitioners, after calling evidence under oath decided unequivocally that there has been no "false market" in any of these transactions, including the Guinness transaction which formed the basis of the charges against me. The existence and decision of this tribunal were kept secret from all the defendants in the Guinness trials until forced out of the prosecution on December 20, 1991, 54 days into the second Guinness trial.

The evidence obtained by this tribunal and its judgment were not revealed to the Bank of England, nor were they revealed to the inspectors conducting the DTI investigation until December last year. Suffice it to say that the second Guinness trial collapsed shortly after this revelation.

The wilful withholding of this evidence is now, with other matters in the

Guinness trials, the subject of an investigation by the Metropolitan Police. To my knowledge the Government still refuses to publish the report and recommendations of this tribunal.

I have little doubt that had this information been made available to all involved in these trials from the start, none of the defendants in the first trial would have been convicted.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SPENS,
Gould, Frintenden, Kent,
September 22.

From Wing-Commander R. Dauncey

Sir, The problems of investigations forcing self-incrimination by witnesses (report, September 19; letters, September 21) could be resolved if military practice was followed.

Military boards of inquiry, as their title suggests, are designed to ascertain the facts of an incident or event, apportion responsibility (and blame, if appropriate), and make recommendations. Evidence, which need not follow the normal rules, is taken on oath, but the proceedings cannot be used in any subsequent court martial which stands or falls on separately acquired evidence taken under the normal rules and safeguards.

Surely, DTI inquiries and the like, where one is forced to give evidence, could be treated in the same way — and subsequent legal action could follow, adhering to normal rules of evidence and procedure.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DAUNCEY,
Leremoos, 34 Main Road,
Naphill, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire,
September 21.

From Mrs Ann Brill

Sir, I read with interest (report, September 20) that Mr Ernest Saunders, former chief of Guinness, is about to attempt to clear his name. One must assume that he has made a full and lasting recovery from Alzheimer's disease, which was the condition he was suffering from when he was released early from prison.

I would be most interested in details of the treatment which gave Mr Saunders his cure.

My mother, aged 82, is suffering from this disease, and I have been advised that, regardless of age, there is no hope of a cure.

Yours sincerely,
ANN BRILL,
2 White Hart Court,
Fairford, Gloucestershire,
September 23.

Defining heritage

From Mr Robert Hewison

Sir, In his article, "Take more care of the tourists" (September 17), Simon Jenkins attributes to me opinions that emphatically do not hold. He writes that "demand that the past should be left to stride into oblivion". Nothing could be further from the truth.

I have just come back from Vienna, where I have been speaking at a conference organised by the Council of Europe under the title "Heritages for Europe". The use of the plural is significant. It shows that there is a European-wide ambition to have an inheritance from the past that is not the sanitised, homogenised and commercialised "heritage" that Simon Jenkins appears to favour.

It is a measure of the paranoia felt by the English heritage establishment, to which Mr Jenkins is close, to attribute false opinions to those who would dare to question the commercial and political thrust of the heritage industry. It is unworthy of a member of the Millennium Commission.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HEWISON,
180 Queen Alexandra Mansions,
Judd Street, WC1,
September 21.

From Mr Deyan Sudjic

Sir, For Simon Jenkins to begin his defence of the heritage industry with

an attack on the yobbishness of those who love the Hayward Gallery — amongst whose number he mistakenly seems to include me — represents a particularly contorted piece of reasoning.

The heritage lobby itself is responsible for listing the National Theatre, the Festival Hall, and a choice selection of high-level concrete walkways between the two. It would certainly fight for the Hayward too, if it was once more threatened with demolition. In Mr Jenkins's eyes that surely puts English Heritage closer to the yobs than the angels.

My quarrel with the constantly expanding definition of heritage is the way in which it dilutes the currency of Britain's authentic landmarks by lumping them with such questionable structures as Centrepoint.

Mr Jenkins paints a picture of a Britain in which only 3 per cent of buildings are protected, but nobody knows for sure how many there are.

According to Richard Griffith in *The Planner*, volume 75, issue 19 (May 1989), the best guess is that there are already in excess of one million listed buildings in England and Wales. At that level heritage in Britain is clearly on the verge of hyperinflation.

Yours sincerely,
DEYAN SUDJIC,
(Architecture Critic),
The Guardian,
119 Farringdon Road, EC1,
September 20.

Real science

From Mrs Lorely Wilson

Sir, Having had a fascinating week of science at the British Association meeting in Leicester, I cannot agree with Dr Wittmann (letter, September 21) that only social science were discussed. What we have here is a sampling error. Journalists have chosen to write up only the "soft" science results from the meeting.

Yours faithfully,
L. A. WILSON,
Underwood, Glebelands Road,
Knutsford, Cheshire,
September 22.

Orderly behaviour

From Dr Arman Farahmand-Razavi

Sir, Your report today on the abolition of the bus queue bylaw reminded me of George Mikes's treatise on how to be an alien: "An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one."

Yours etc,
A. FARAHMAND-RAZAVI,
8 The Hollies Court, Britannia Road,
Banbury, Oxfordshire,
September 21.

A brush with Michelangelo

From Mr Michael Daley

Sir, Martin Bailey's arguments (letter, September 20) in support of the attribution to Michelangelo of the National Gallery's painting *The Entombment* (report and leading article, September 15) are perhaps misleading. It is true that the picture was described in the 1649 inventory of the Farnese collection as being "by the hand" of Michelangelo but this view was challenged in the 1653 inventory, when it was described as "said to be by Michelangelo".

Mr Bailey implies that archival evidence for Michelangelo's authorship has been found by Michael Hirst and Alexander Nagel. It has not. In the October 1981 *Burlington Magazine* Hirst discussed bankers' records of a payment made to Michelangelo for a painting for an altar in the church of Sant'Agostino in Rome. The documents concerned, as Mr Hirst fully and generously acknowledged, had been discovered and published in 1971 by Mancusi-Ungaro. These (and others subsequently found by Nagel) show that although Michelangelo received a payment, he returned it in full.

Part was given by Michelangelo to a "Maestro Andrea", who is shown to have bought a panel and materials and to have supplied a picture which was installed in the church. There are no records of Michelangelo having begun or completed a painting. On the back of these bare archival bones, Hirst has erected a hypothesis (which Nagel endorses and elaborates): Michelangelo, he suggests, might have begun and nearly completed a large altarpiece and might have decided to keep it himself. Mr Bailey's claim that *The Entombment* is "probably this half-finished altarpiece" is unsupported.

Mr Nagel's position, as given this March in the *Burlington Magazine*, is that if Michelangelo had painted *The Entombment* for Sant'Agostino its subject would not have been inappropriate. This is no advance on the now discarded 1970 hypothesis of National Gallery staff that if Michelangelo had been allowed to build a free-standing tomb for Pope Julius II, and if he had felt that a "focal point" was necessary for its proposed interior space, then a depiction of an entombment of Christ would have been an extremely apposite choice of subject.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL DALEY (UK Director,
ArtWatch International),
15 Capel Road,
East Barnet, Hertfordshire,
September 23.

Colour blindness

From Mr Paul Clark

Sir, In addition to the serious dangers already mentioned in Dr Trisha Greenhalgh's article, "Dangers of not seeing red" (September 13), caused by the red/green difficulty, many lesser risks and inconveniences confront the colour blind.

For example, having cut through the red cables on my electric hedge-cutter, lawnmower and chainsaw — invisible against the garden green — I have learnt to paint them yellow.

I can only use the Ordnance Survey Pathfinder maps after my wife has been kind enough to mark the green footpaths with a yellow highlighter.

I believe that many of these problems could be eradicated by the more thoughtful use of colour. For example, the wiring on a three-pin plug is no longer the gamble it used to be. So could some appropriate agency please now campaign for a sort-out?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CLARK,
Roughetts, Wickhurst Road,
Weald, Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Dr Mary T. Brück

Sir, The unsuitability of the colours red and green for traffic signals (Mr David Williams's letter, September 19) was expounded as early as 1855 by George Wilson (1818-1859), Professor of Technology in the University of Edinburgh.

Wilson advocated the testing of signalmen for their appreciation of colour, and proposed that "elements of form and number as well as colour" should be employed in railway signals. Although he was not successful in having his recommendation adopted in practice, his work, based on the examination of over 1,000 people, was widely praised in the scientific community at the time.

Yours faithfully,
MARY T. BRÜCK,
Craigower, Penicuik, Midlothian.

Not cricket?

From Mr Paul A. Cantoni

Sir, I sympathise with Mrs Asser (letter, September 23) in her dilemma, which stirs dark memories of my own albatross.

Some years ago, whilst I was living in Tehran, a cricket took up residence in a most inaccessible spot under my bed. His song finally exasperated me. At dead of the third sleepless night, I reached for my torch (in breach of the blackout rules, for it was wartime) and my Webley air pistol, and shot the poor cricket dead.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL A. CANTONI,
Ansouse, The Street, Albury, Surrey,
September 20.

OBITUARIES

ALEC DICKSON

Alec Dickson, CBE, founder of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and Community Service Volunteers (CSV), died on September 23 aged 80. He was born on May 23, 1914.

A MAN of visionary imagination, enthusiasm and energy, Alec Dickson directly inspired many thousands of young people to devote themselves to a period of full-time service to the community, in the case of VSO, this was abroad, among the peoples of the newly-emerging Commonwealth nations, in the case of CSV, among the handicapped, the elderly and young offenders in this country.

VSO sprang from an idea which struck Dickson while he was serving with a relief agency on the Austrian frontier in the aftermath of the Soviet suppression of the Hungarian uprising of 1956. National Service was coming to an end and he felt there was another role to be played in the countries of the Commonwealth by the young people of Britain.

CSV's genesis was somewhat different, though the impulses behind its creation were much the same. Forced out of VSO's directorship by a "palace revolution" in 1962, Dickson cast around him and realised that Britain, with its increasing social problems, was a sphere for a similar effort. Thus, in 1962, CSV was planned on the kitchen table of the Dicksons' London home.

Alexander Graeme Dickson was educated at Rugby and New College, Oxford. He initially embarked on a journalistic career, serving on the *Yorkshire Post*, 1936-37, and on *The Daily Telegraph*, 1937-38. But in the winter of 1938-39 he decided to help the work of refugee relief in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. He also did youth work in Leeds and London.

During the Second World War he served with the Cameron Highlanders, and the 1st King's African Rifles in the Ethiopian campaign. Later he led the East Africa Command mobile education unit. After the war, from 1946 to 1948, he continued refugee relief work with the Displaced Persons Directorate in Berlin.

Thanks to an inheritance from his father he was able to continue in a number of voluntary initiatives after the war, without being under the constraints of having to earn a living. From Berlin he went to the Gold Coast (now Ghana) and between 1948 and 1954 set up a number of educational and training projects there and in the Cameroons and Nigeria. He then had a brief spell as chief of the Unesco mission in Iraq before returning to work with refugees on the Austro-Hungarian border in 1956-57.

When, he and his wife, Mora, first proposed Voluntary Service Overseas with the object of enabling young people from Britain to go out to



developing countries for a year or more and help in such practical tasks as teaching, nursing and agricultural work, it received a cool reception in Whitehall. "It won't work Alec," he was told, "it's radiologists and engineers in pre-stressed concrete they need overseas - not British schoolkids who have nothing to offer but their pupils."

Undaunted, Dickson dispatched VSO's first dozen 18-year-olds to Ghana, Nigeria and Sarawak in 1958, and this small trickle soon developed into a flood of thousands. VSO rapidly grew to become one of the largest voluntary organisations of its kind. As the years went by, its volunteers changed, too, from school leavers to trained graduates who often spent two or more years working overseas and were thus able to make a more valuable contribution to the voluntary effort.

The value of VSO was immediately seen in other countries which were thinking about the way to make voluntary aid to the emergent nations most effective. The Americans were particularly keen on the VSO blueprint and in 1961 Dickson was summoned to the US to advise President Kennedy on the establishment of the Peace Corps.

While he was away, however, criticism of Dickson's stewardship of VSO broke out into open revolt among his staff. It was felt in London that he was stronger on inspiration than administration and that with the organisation growing larger by the month a more professional hand was needed at the helm. Returning home to Britain, Dickson found he was no longer director of VSO.

At first he was totally disorientated. His life's work had been taken from him. But, as he was later to say: "There were wildernesses and deserts here in Britain." Dickson and his wife immediately went to work to set up Community Service Volunteers to give school leavers the opportunity to spend some time living away from home, engaged in some socially useful work in their own country. Unlike the highly selective VSO, which had favoured the public school and the university volunteer, CSV was to be open to anyone who could possibly make themselves useful. Most of its volunteers were teenagers; some came from the young unemployed, from children in care, from those undergoing Borstal training, from the handicapped and from

cadets on secondment from the armed services or the police force. They worked among Vietnamese boat people, in delinquency centres, in homes for the elderly and in psychiatric units. In many cases the year of voluntary service acted as therapy for those who were undertaking it, giving them a sense of self respect their previous institutionalised lives had failed to do.

CSV was the first organisation of its kind anywhere in the world and aroused considerable international interest. President Johnson directly copied it when he set up Volunteers in Service to America in 1963 and Alec Dickson was in constant demand as a consultant and adviser to governments and voluntary organisations across the globe.

Dickson, who remained as director of CSV until 1982, when he became its honorary president, was constantly coming up with new ideas and projects. He sought to persuade schools and colleges to link their curricula to the needs of the local community and pioneered tutoring schemes whereby older pupils helped younger ones in the classroom.

He was also a persistent and powerful voice in the campaign in the early 1980s to establish a national social service scheme for all school leavers in Britain, of the type which exists in Germany as an alternative to military conscription. If he did not always persuade the political and educational establishment of the wisdom and feasibility of his many schemes, it was certainly not for want of forceful advocacy and assiduous lobbying. He was an indefatigable letter writer and public speaker.

In some respects Alec Dickson was a prophet honoured abroad rather more than in his own country although he was appointed MBE in 1945 and advanced to CBE in 1967; Leeds (1970) and Bristol (1980) universities awarded him honorary doctorates. He received a Niwano Peace Foundation Award in 1982 and the Kurt Hahn Centenary Award of 1986. From 1974 to 1977 he was a consultant to the Commonwealth secretariat and he was an adviser to the International Baccalaureate schools.

With his wife he was the author of *A Community Service Handbook* (1967) and also published *School in the Round* (1969), *A Chance to Serve* (1976) and *Volunteers* (1983).

He married, in 1951, Mora Hope Robertson, herself to become a distinguished artist and illustrator, and, as Mora Dickson, a prolific author of travel books and biographies, as well as being his collaborator. She was a constant ally and supporter of him in all aspects of his work and her affectionate description of him as an "unregistered workaholic" perhaps best sums up his approach to his achievements. There were no children.

LEONARD FEATHER

Leonard Feather, jazz writer, composer and record producer, died in Los Angeles on September 22 aged 80. He was born in London on September 13, 1914.



THE role of Leonard Feather as both musician and author ensured him a privileged position in a world where the two functions are usually rigidly separated. As a confidant to many stars, from Duke Ellington to Billie Holiday and Miles Davis, he acquired an invaluable fund of first-hand information about the inner workings of jazz, knowledge that was put to good use in his numerous publications. Foremost among these were the successive volumes of *The Encyclopedia of Jazz* and he also made a valuable contribution to the literature of jazz in his long-running column in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Born into a conventional, upper-middle class Jewish family in Hampstead, Feather acquired a passion for American popular culture after an uncle who was visiting the United States sent him a collection of comics. Thereafter he immersed himself in all things American, and like so many teenagers of his generation became a passionate jazz fan after hearing Louis Armstrong's recording of "West End Blues".

Unable to go to university on account of the family's financial losses in the Great Depression, Feather was sent to the Continent to stay with friends. He published his first articles - on cinema - in 1932 while living in France and Germany.

Returning to Britain soon afterwards, he spent the next two and a half years working as a lowly production assistant at the British Lion film studios in Beaconsfield. During this period Feather began contributing articles to *Melody Maker* and *Gramophone*, and after resigning from his day job in 1935 he made the first of several trips to New York to hear and meet many of his idols.

He took his first steps as a record producer a year later when he obtained a permit for the American multi-instrumentalist Benny Carter to work in London as an arranger for Henry Hall's BBC Dance Orchestra. At that time American musicians were often under restrictions which prevented them from working in Britain. Feather recorded Carter on a number of occasions, one of which yielded Carter's best known tune "When Lights Are Low".

By 1938 Feather was also supervising recording sessions in New York, and soon afterwards he finally fulfilled his plans to settle there permanently. Aside from his production and journalistic duties, he briefly worked as a press agent for Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton and others. Some of his detractors were to claim that he later tended to

blur the distinction between critic and publicist, a charge that he indignantly rejected.

Feather was instrumental in setting up the first of *Esquire* magazine's critics' poll awards, inaugurated in 1943. The poll venture ended in acrimony four years later when hostilities broke out between advocates of bebop and so-called "mouldy figs" who preferred dixieland jazz. The affair had racial overtones since most of the leading bop musicians were black. Feather emerged as one of the most thoughtful champions of the modernists, helping to arrange recording sessions for Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Sarah Vaughan.

Between 1947 and 1949 he organised a series of concerts at Carnegie Hall with the aim of publicising the new music. His enthusiasm was reflected in the title of his first book, *Inside Be-bop* published in 1949 and later re-issued as *Inside Jazz*. Another journalistic innovation was "The Blindfold Test" in which Feather invited a leading musician to listen to and comment on unidentified records - often with controversial results. First introduced in *Metronome* magazine, it later became a regular feature in *Down Beat*.

Feather continued to produce sessions by a broad range of musicians, including Louis Armstrong, Jack Teagarden, Erroll Garner and the young Andre Previn, and he did much to champion the career of his fellow-expatiate, George Shearing. He did much to promote the career of women musicians such as Hazel Scott and Melba Liston. The blues singer Dinah Washington also came under his wing, making her first solo

recording under his supervision in 1943. The songs "Evil Gal Blues" and "Sally Papa Blues" both came from Feather's pen. An accomplished blues composer he also wrote "How Blue Can You Get?" With its punchline, "I gave you seven children, now you want to give them back", the song became a staple of B. B. King's repertoire. Other compositions were recorded by Ella Fitzgerald, Cleo Laine and the saxophonist Cannonball Adderley.

In 1955 Feather published the first edition of *The Encyclopedia of Jazz* which was immediately recognised by all jazz lovers as being an indispensable handbook for the study of the subject and its practitioners. Later volumes focussed on the jazz music of the Sixties and Seventies. Feather's other main contribution to jazz literature was the astute collection of essays, *From Satchmo to Miles*, which appeared in 1972.

With his wife Jane and his daughter Lorraine, Feather moved to Los Angeles in 1960. He had hoped to build up his composing portfolio, but there were fewer opportunities than he had hoped. However in the mid-Sixties he was invited to write a regular column for the *Los Angeles Times*, an assignment which lasted for the next quarter of a century. His articles were eventually syndicated to several hundred newspapers around the world. Feather's memoirs, *The Jazz Years: Earliness to an Era*, were published in 1980. Presented less as an autobiography than as a "selective retrospective" they were a mixture of anecdote and travelogue.

Leonard Feather is survived by his wife and daughter.

ROBERT BLOCH

Robert Bloch, American mystery novelist and screenwriter, died in Los Angeles on September 23 aged 77. He was born in Chicago on April 5, 1917.

SURPRISES were the stock-in-trade of Robert Bloch, but he out-did himself with the scene in his novel *Psycho* which became the classic Alfred Hitchcock horror film of the same name. Suddenly it was no longer safe to take a shower.

For the rest of his life, Bloch's reputation was destined to be dominated by his depiction of the notorious Bates motel - a story based on the true-life case of an American mass-murderer in the 1950s. But in fact it was only a tiny part of his output.

Bloch was one of the first authors to examine the motivations and mind of the serial killer, beginning with Jack the Ripper in a 1940s story that was broadcast on radio more than 300 times. It was a constant surprise to those who knew him that so gentle and mild-mannered a man could immerse himself so thoroughly in criminal characters that must have been utterly alien to his own nature.



Setting for Bloch's most chilling scene, as depicted in the film of his novel *Psycho*

He began his writing career at the age of 17, when he sold a story to the magazine *Weird Tales*. For the next eight years he supported himself as a freelance writer for the pulp fiction industry which flourished in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1942, seeking more security, he became a copy-writer for an advertising agency. But al-

though the advertising world purveyed its own brand of fantasy it was not the kind at which Bloch excelled. He returned to freelance writing, moving in the 1950s to Hollywood, where he churned out scripts for low-budget horror films. He also wrote for such television shows as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and

the original series of *Star Trek*. The success of *Psycho* in 1960 propelled Bloch into a series of horror novels with such titles as *Firebug*, *Out of the Mouths of Graves* and *Mysteries of the Worm*. He also wrote innumerable short stories, many adapted for radio, television and film, and

all banged out on an ancient manual typewriter.

Psycho made Bloch even more in demand as a horror screenwriter from the early 1960s onwards. Among his scripts were that for *The Cabinet of Caligari* (1962) - a home scant relation to Robert Wiene's 1919 expressionist classic of the silent screen. He also wrote such hardy perennials as *The Night Walker* (1964), *The Deadly Bees* (1966), *The Torture Garden* (1967), *The House that Dripped Blood* (1970) and *Asylum* (1972).

Bloch became a close friend of the actors Boris Karloff and Basil Rathbone, perennial players in horror films, but he was not entirely happy with the cinematic trend he had begun with *Psycho* - the making of films based on psychotic reality rather than mythology. The graphic violence of modern horror movies offended him. "I'm really quite squeamish about them," he said in 1991.

Last month, knowing the end was close, Bloch began typing notes for his own obituary, saying that he did not want to cheat readers out of a final surprise ending. He specified that his ashes be placed in the library of the University of Wyoming - in a book-shaped urn. Bloch's sense of humour was macabre to the last.

He is survived by his wife Eleanor and one daughter.

MICHAEL WILLIMENT

Michael Williment, New Zealand rugby union international, died of cancer in Wellington on September 5 aged 54. He was born in Wellington on February 25, 1940.

MICK WILLIMENT played nine times for New Zealand's rugby union team. He sprang to prominence when he played for Wellington's senior team as an 18-year-old. But he was one of those unfortunate players whose career coincided in part with one of New Zealand's legends, the remarkable goal-kicking full back, Don Clarke.

Williment, who was educated at Rongotai College, was a comforting presence at full back in an era when the leading All Blacks lock, Colin Meads, was no more than 6ft 4in, for a full back to take the

field at 6ft 2in and 14st 4lb as Williment did offered a degree of security.



He played a full decade for Wellington and received his first national trial in 1961. But

not until Clarke's career neared its conclusion did he receive international honours. He played initially against Australia in 1964 and then had two full seasons, against South Africa in 1965 and the British Isles in 1966.

Of his nine internationals, eight were won, the exception being the third of the four-match series against the South Africans. At a time when rugby was a conservative game he was a regular contributor and aggregated 70 points for his country before being overlooked for the 1967 tour to Britain when Fergie McCormick, his Canterbury rival, came to prominence.

Williment trained as a teacher but subsequently went into the travel business, specialising in sports tours.

He leaves a widow Rosemary and two children.

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A Gift to the NCDL in your Will is a Gift of Life to a Dog
The National Canine Defence League (NCDL) rescues about 9,000 dogs each and every year. No dog is destroyed, unless for humane reasons. We are always looking for caring and responsible new owners to give them a second chance. With fifteen rescue centres nationwide, we are experts in dog care, but we rely upon your generosity to continue our work. Please remember us in your Will.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT LANDSLIP
Niton, Isle of Wight, Sept. 25.
Enterprising motor-coach firms are still running trips to see the landslide and today these brought a large number of people to Rocken End. The slip is thus proving a benefit to a body of island traders who are astute enough to turn a caprice of nature to their own advantage, but to the patient watchers who come here daily in the hope of seeing something fresh happen the view is getting monotonous.

ON THIS DAY
September 26 1928
Landslides exert a morbid attraction for those who take the ground under their feet for granted and the writer made the most of this modest example likely to change, for the sea will then begin to scoop out the earth that is being gradually pushed towards it and the whole of the loose soil will be washed away. That at least is what those with experience of landslides here predict as certain to happen. All the low-lying land at Rocken End, which has been started moving by the combined forces of the chalk avalanche and subterranean streams, still continues its slow progress towards the sea. Every day the soil becomes more broken, old fissures

widen, new ones appear, the whole area grows more heavily waterlogged, and the binding effect of tree roots, bush growth, etc. which has exercised a brake on the forward slipping soil, lessens. Incidentally, too, the danger to the incautious increases, but this does not deter visitors from making perilous investigations. The danger signs which the authorities have erected are ignored more than heeded. Several narrow escapes have occurred and only minor accidents have happened, but this immunity can scarcely continue if the public persist in disregarding warnings. Crossing the gashed stretch of slipping earth is a risky adventure, yet people continue doing this in order that they may see at close quarters the rending apart of tree roots and peer down at the streams which trickle along the bottom of the deep gaps in the earth. Far wiser are those who satisfy their curiosity by inspecting the landslide from one of the many boats that take out sightseers. They get the better view and are safe.

NEWS

Haitians loot police stations

■ Authority collapsed briefly in the port city of Cap-Haitien when jubilant Haitians, some firing into the air, looted abandoned police stations and army barracks, pausing only to thank American troops who had forced out the Haitian officers. US marines had earlier stormed the city's police headquarters after a shootout in which ten Haitians were killed and an American wounded. The looting spree followed, but marines regained control of police stations and barracks without further incident. **Pages 1, 11**

Clarke signals more tax cuts

■ Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, reasserted his determination to cut taxes before the next election as Tony Blair's courtship of the middle classes intensified with a pledge to ditch Labour's "tax and spend" image. **Page 1**

Adams assurance

Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Féin, has assured the American public that he is not interested in any "temporary" suspension of the conflict in Northern Ireland, his strongest hint yet that the IRA ceasefire is permanent. **Pages 1, 2**

Rambler attack duke

Senior members of the Ramblers' Association have criticised the Duke of Westminster, saying he has used conservation as an excuse to deprive the public of rambling rights on his Lancashire moorlands. **Page 3**

University fees

University vice-chancellors are to consider charging students "top-up" tuition fees. **Page 5**

Whitemoor inquiry

A corrupt prison officer may have been responsible for helping IRA prisoners to plan their failed escape from top-security White-moor prison. **Page 5**

Agenda

Daniel Finkelstein looks at the American Republican Party in opposition — and offers some practical lessons for the Tories. **Page 6**

Victims' plea

Motorists who kill on the roads should be automatically banned for ten years, say relatives of crash victims. If the drivers are drunk, they should be banned for life. **Page 8**

King Arthur of Colchester

■ King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table were really Essex Men, runs a new theory — and Camelot was Colchester. "The plain truth is that the southeast of England, and Essex in particular, were the great centres of power in the fifth century," says the man who would alter a legend — an official from the Essex Tourism Association. **Page 1**

Plague empties city

Rats finally have the shuns of Surat to themselves. The flight of people from pneumonic plague has turned much of this Indian city into a ghost town. **Page 9**

Falling from grace?

Former president Jimmy Carter's intervention in Haiti has reinforced the impression that Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, has lost control of US foreign policy. **Page 11**

Yeltsin visit

John Major sealed a new era of Russian-British ties with a kiss for Boris Yeltsin's wife, Naina, and a revived peace plan for Bosnia. **Page 12**

Concern over Pope

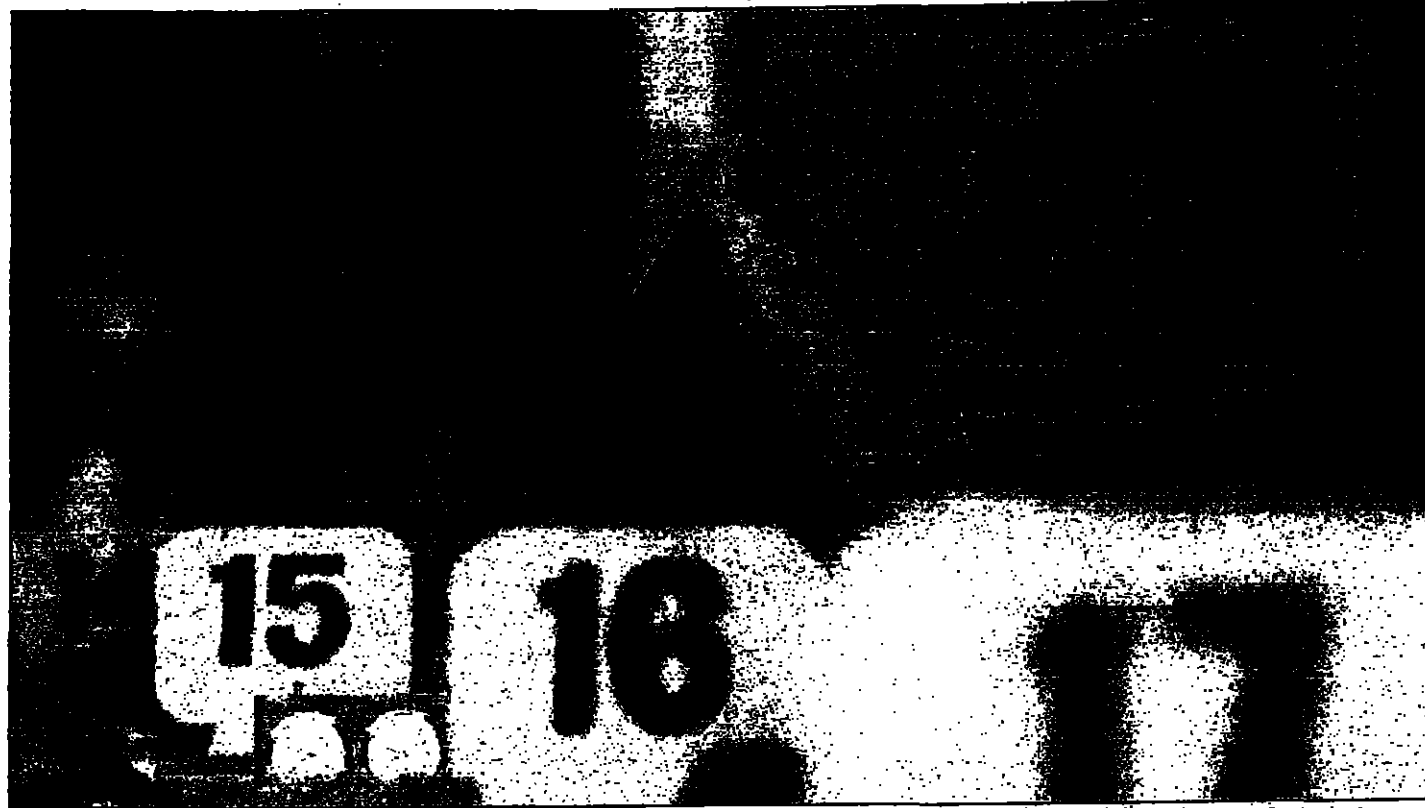
The Pope looked tired and subdued leading prayers at the Vatican yesterday after a week of rising concern about the state of his health. **Page 12**

German elections

Bavaria's Christian Social Union is heading for outright victory in Germany's regional elections, fortifying the government of Helmut Kohl. **Page 13**

Nul points ...

The score in the ancient sport of cross-Channel abuse has been levelled by the French Institute for International Relations, which finds Britain a "stiff, class-ridden, hypocritical society". **Page 13**



Penny Downer, a teacher from Cowes, playing in the southeast regional finals of the National Scrabble Championship in London

Pensions: Millions of part-time workers could win new pension rights after the European Court of Justice passes judgment this week on a case brought by a Dutch woman. **Page 44**

Forté: Further details of the hotel and catering group's plans for The Savoy are likely to emerge on Thursday, when the group is expected to report profits of up to £55 million. **Page 40**

Cablings Britain: There are now more than 700,000 homes in Britain connected to broad-band cable systems — a 50 per cent increase on a year ago. Availability is increasing at the rate of 20 per cent every six months and 3.4 million homes have the potential to subscribe to cable entertainment. **Page 42**

Better late than never: Lillian Hellman's 1934 Broadway hit, *The Children's Hour*, gets its first major British public performance — 60 years late. And, says Jeremy Kingston, the National's revival shows the play is more than just a curiosity. **Page 14**

Expensive and thrilling: Schoenberg's massive *Gurrelieder* is in danger of being treated as a musical status symbol. First the Proms did it, now the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra pushes the boat out. **Page 14**

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Boxing: Lennox Lewis has a chance to prove his critics' wrong after losing the WBC world heavyweight championship to Oliver McCall, who stopped the British pugilist in the second round of their bout at Wembley. **Page 25**

Snooker: Ken Doherty took a 5-3 lead over Stephen Hendry in the 1994-95 season opener. **Page 26**

Rugby: The Wales national team will lead over Scotland in the first of their autumn international matches. **Page 28**

Cricket: The England cricket team will lead over Australia in the first of their autumn international matches. **Page 29**

Baseball: The New York Yankees will lead over the Boston Red Sox in the first of their autumn international matches. **Page 30**

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Baseball: The New York Yankees will lead over the Boston Red Sox in the first of their autumn international matches. **Page 30**

Baseball: The New York Yankees will lead over the Boston Red Sox in the first of their autumn international matches. **Page 30**

Timothy Spall plays a disenchanted office worker in a new comedy by Paul Shearer and Richard Turner. *Nice Day At The Office* (BBC1, 10.10pm) **Page 4**

Mates versus Adams

Mr Mates must leave the Americans in no doubt that the Brits will never cede the province until it is absolutely clear that the majority of its population wish this to happen. **Page 1**

A Belgian buggins

Mr Claes is the wrong choice for the job of Nato Secretary General. **Page 1**

Primary inspection

The purpose of the Government reforms was to ensure better schools and better-informed parents. These will not be achieved until inspections are cut from the cloth. **Page 1**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

In 1993-94, with the marginal rate of tax about half of what they have been in 1978, the top 1 per cent taxpayers were paying a high proportion of the Exchequer's receipts. Lower taxes produced more revenue. **Page 1**

MATTHEW PARRIS

Shorn of the burden of being "Britain", England will be able to revert to a happier, bygone role. As Elizabethan times, we shall become a nimble, expedient, talented mercantile nation. **Page 1**

Alec Dickson, founder of Voluntary Service Overseas and Community Service Volunteers, Leosard Feather, jazz writer and composer, Robert Black, novel Michael Williams, New Zealand rugby international. **Page 1**

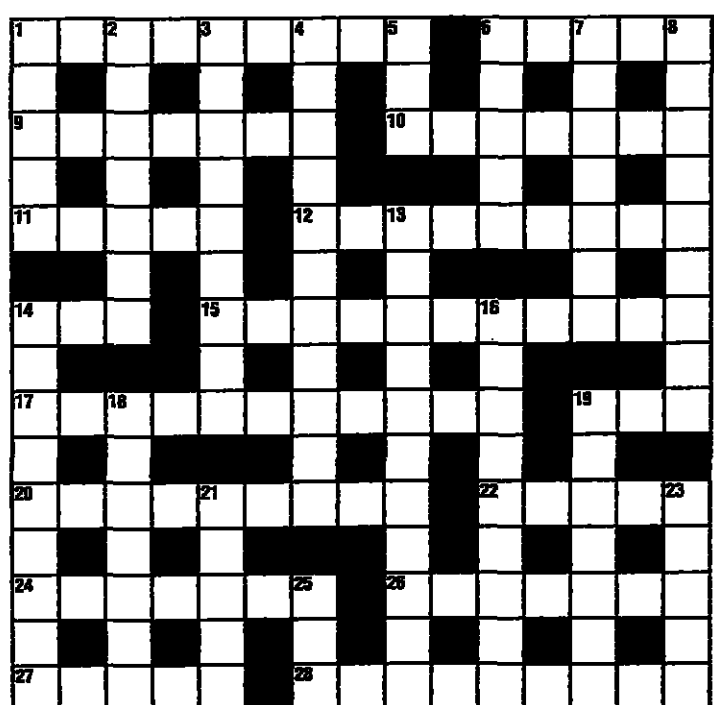
Nurses' pay

At a time when the United States is leading over Britain in the campaign to d... **Page 1**

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... **Page 1**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,657



ACROSS

- 1 Foreign office alters estimates (9)
- 2 Southern bird to approach carefully (5)
- 3 Surrender collection of notes after study (7)
- 4 Clock without a movement? (7)
- 5 Military detachment not up to standard is sent back to square (5)
- 6 Postponements find speaker set in intention to come back (9)
- 7 Musical section augmenting gong (3)
- 8 Foreign money in volume difficult to handle (11)
- 9 Contraction of brief illness (11)
- 10 Tank needs very aggressive troop leaders (3)
- 11 Is able to harbour a river vessel (9)
- 12 One left in dark (5)
- 13 Surpass in openwork (7)
- 14 The French crew in court making a noise (7)

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- 1 An aspect of service in the 1st/4th Foot (5)
- 2 Resentment felt by soldier on report (7)
- 3 Monarch's palace torn almost asunder (9)
- 4 Force through vessel with inherent list (11)
- 5 Sorry state of Society nowadays? (3)
- 6 Stone containing tin not plentiful (5)
- 7 Grass in hedges, part of enclosure (7)
- 8 Characteristic ailment spreading around Tyneside (9)
- 9 Nerve shown in series of games producing inquisitive spectators (11)
- 10 Material support for sponsor of stage set piece (9)
- 11 Again negotiate for shelter (9)
- 12 One habitation erected say, for the community (7)
- 13 Encountered gangster on the road (5)
- 14 Set to enmesh bears (5)
- 15 Add to drink in cup (3)

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appropriate code:	
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FOOTBALL

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No fanfare for the common fans at Newcastle

SCHOOLS SPORT

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Diving into life at the deep end

RUGBY UNION

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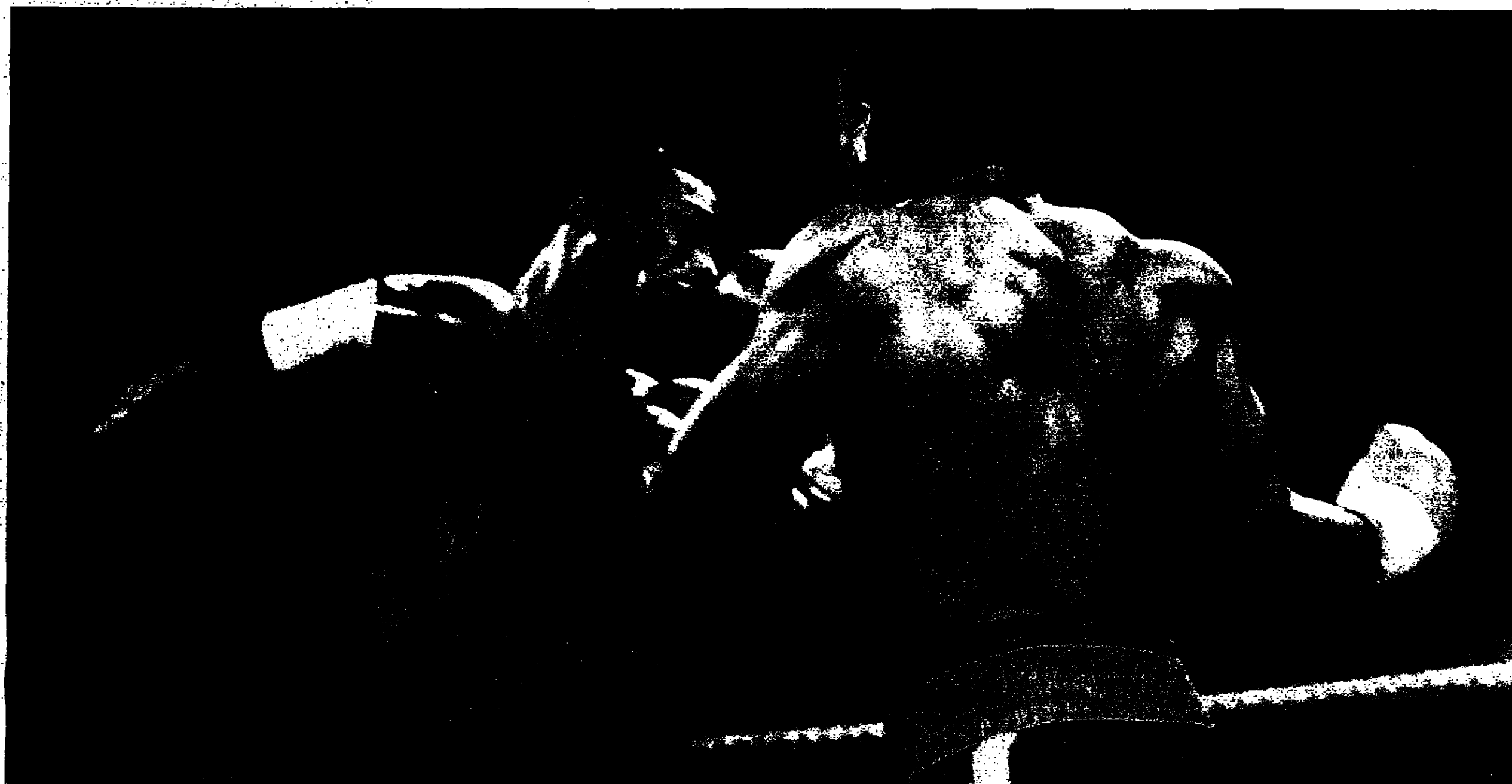
Underdogs draw sting from Wasps' challenge

GYMNASTICS

25

Golden hopes rest on tiny shoulders

TIMES SPORT



McCall unleashes the punch that sent Lewis crashing to the canvas in the second round at Wembley Arena. Lewis protested that the fight was stopped too early and is to appeal against the result. Photograph: Holly Stein/Allsport

Lewis demands rematch after losing world heavyweight title

McCall topples flawed champion

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CRITICS of Lennox Lewis, who always questioned his true worth, will no doubt be convinced that he is nothing more than just another British heavyweight after his defeat in 31 seconds of the second round of his world title bout with Oliver McCall at Wembley Arena in the early hours of yesterday. But if the true test of a champion comes not when he is on his toes but on the floor, Lewis cannot hope for a better chance to prove his critics wrong by carrying on boxing and regaining the title.

Yet Lewis seemed to be uncertain whether he would box on if the World Boxing Council (WBC) does not grant an immediate rematch because of a controversial decision by the referee, Lupe Garcia, who prevented Lewis from continuing when he got to his feet after the knock-down. Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, and Dan Duva, his American promoter, are to lodge a protest and seek a rematch. Duva said that if the protest did not succeed, he would get a world title bout with Michael Moore, the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association

champion. John Davinos, Moore's manager, is agreeable. Lewis boxed well, if a little apprehensively, in the first round. His jab worked well, earning him the round, but in the second he decided to try the big right, which is a risky punch against a smaller man. He jabbed, thought the punch was on, and unleashed the right. Lewis's chin almost rested on McCall's shoulder as he leaned sideways, off balance, just as Emmanuel Steward, McCall's trainer, said it would. McCall, ducking under the punch, brought his right

hand over, catching Lewis on the chin.

Lewis went over sideways. Still dazed, he got up at five, fell back onto the ropes, and then stumbled forward, almost falling over Garcia. He steadied himself. Garcia stopped counting and asked Lewis if he was able to continue. Lewis, feet too close together, nodded. But Garcia, believing that he was not in a position to defend himself, waved the contest off.

Immediately, Lewis protested: "I was clear to fight. I was totally robbed." Garcia said: "I'm absolute-

ly sure about what I did. Lennox Lewis was knocked out. To allow more punches to Lewis could have had fatal consequences. My duty is to protect the health of the boxer."

Maloney said he had objected twice to Garcia's appointment because Garcia had never refereed a heavyweight title bout before, but the WBC refused to replace him. Maloney said: "Lennox Lewis was caught with a shot but he should have been given a chance. That was a fight for the world heavyweight title. Lennox should have been given the benefit of the doubt."

Duva said WBC rules provided for a rematch in the event of a controversial decision. "There was no question in my mind that the referee stopped the fight too soon," he said. "This is no four-round fight from Liverpool. This is the heavyweight champion of the world. It was an outrageous stoppage. Fighters fight hurt all the time. That's what makes world champions."

John Morris, secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said: "I am bitterly disappointed because I saw him get his hands up. He obviously had taken a cracking shot, but the only one up close to him was the referee. He has to make

the decision. But I'll campaign for a rematch."

While it has to be said that if McCall had been only a couple of feet away the decision would have been correct, my reaction was that the stoppage was a little hasty. In view of the fact that it was a world championship bout and only one round old, that McCall was in a neutral corner and that Lewis was on the point of recovering, the referee could have allowed the contest to proceed.

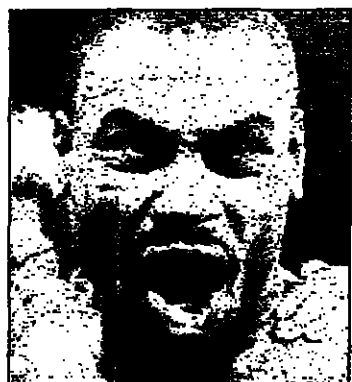
While we wait for the results of the appeal, Lewis can ponder on the

words of Steward, the man who masterminded his demise. Steward is convinced Lewis will become world champion again, but not before he changes his training team. "I have no doubt he will become a world champion," Steward said. "I think he's got more talent than anyone I've seen in a long time. It would be a terrible waste if he did not fight on. He will be champion if he puts his mind to it. This fight will open him up."

"He has had a long run of successes without preparing properly. Everything has been too easy for him. This may wake him up. They kept telling him Oliver was a burn, a crackhead, and Lennox was programmed into thinking McCall was nothing. I don't know if Lennox has the right men around him."

Clearly, Lewis's team either did not take McCall seriously enough or they underestimated Steward, who turned McCall from a brawler into a boxer. Lewis had not expected a boxer and his team had made no attempt to correct Lewis's biggest fault, of leaving his chin open when throwing the big right. "It was simple," Steward said.

King of the heavyweights, page 29
Ringside view, page 29



McCall: from brawler to boxer

Hill keeps on track

Damon Hill won the Portuguese Grand Prix yesterday to move within a point of Benetton's Michael Schumacher, the championship leader. Hill's Williams team-mate, David Coulthard, came second. Page 24

Away win for Arsenal

Arsenal recorded their second Premiership win of the season with a 2-0 victory against West Ham at Upton Park yesterday. Tony Adams and Ian Wright scored to keep West Ham near the foot of the table. Page 27

Singh takes Lancôme

After a thrilling afternoon of golf, Vijay Singh, of Fiji, shot a last round 66 to snatch victory in the Lancôme Trophy, holding off the challenge of the Spaniards Severiano Ballesteros and Miguel Angel Jiménez at St-Nom-la-Bretèche. Page 31

Bruno may be next

FRANK Bruno could be the next opponent of Oliver McCall, the new World Boxing Council heavyweight champion. Emmanuel Steward, McCall's trainer, said yesterday (Srikumar Sen writes): "They [Don King's matchmakers] are talking of fighting Bruno next," Steward said.

"They want to put on a fight in London. Oliver used to be Bruno's sparring partner. Commercially, Bruno would be excellent."

King, McCall's promoter, who said he had not decided on an opponent but admitted Bruno was on a list that included Bruce Seldon, of the United States, and Franz Botha, of South Africa. Bruno is scheduled to face Ray Mercer, of the United States, in Hong Kong next month. Referring to the former champion, Mike Tyson, who is hoping for a huge pay-day if he earns parole from a six-year sentence for rape imposed in 1992, King said: "Tyson's next opponent will be McCall."



FORMULA 1
OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER

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Accumulated upsets prompt yankee dreams

Yesterday, Formula One gave us not competition but a high-octane version of synchronised swimming as Damon Hill and David Coulthard won the Portuguese Grand Prix in tight formation and with glittering smiles.

They filled first and second places in what was probably the most predictable event of the year, in a sport in which serious upsets are almost unknown. But Saturday or, to be pedantic, Saturday and the early hours of Sunday, one upset trod upon another's heels: a succession of the bizarre, the elusive of prediction, the quotidian surprisingness of sport.

Top of the bill was Maroof, who won the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot against everything that expert opinion could put against him. Bookies

offered 150-1 in the morning against a horse that won without needing an atom of luck.

Well, horse racing would not exist as part of the gaming industry if it were predictable. But the stars of misrule were lined up right across the sporting heavens on Saturday. Manchester United, chasing a third championship, were beaten by Ipswich, outsiders at 7-2. I went to Portman Road to see the United limousine find its cruising speed and saw it passed by a piece of East Anglian agricultural equipment.

In rugby union, Wasps have been setting a new agenda in the league with a dynamic attacking style that has seen them rattle up a century of points in two games. But on Saturday they went down to West Hartlepool.



BARNES ON MONDAY

Admittedly their most important player, Rob Andrew, was absent, on a party-political stunt with John Major in South Africa — does this sport really expect to be taken seriously? — but you could still have got 8-1 against West Hartlepool before kick-off.

And finally, Oliver McCall beat Lennox Lewis, who is, or was, Britain's world heavyweight boxing champion, being the holder of a title another boxer threw into a dustbin. No, this sport can't

expect to be taken seriously. But McCall won, starting at 9-2.

Everyone delights in an underdog win. We all know that the basic truth of sport lies in the fact that we really don't know what will happen next. But there is always a hint of sadness in any important upset. In sport, we find the unpredictable. But what we look for is greatness. We seek the perfect talent, the perfect team.

It may be right and fitting that in the end all athletes,

however magnificent, learn and teach about the fragility of sporting greatness, about their own humanity, about their own mortality.

But it is still sad. This is true even if your heart is with the opposition. It was sad to see Viv Richards getting out to hubristic shots late in his career, sad that John McEnroe was never the same after his sabbatical, sad that Warwickshire missed their clean sweep, sad that Manchester United missed their domestic treble.

It was also splendid and delightful that others rose at their expense, for the emotions of good sport are never straightforward. We greet the plucky underdog even as we mourn the fleeting nature of sporting excellence. But with any upset, the losers lose more than the winners win.

STEVE EHRNSTON

Bradford go top after walking on new boys Warrington

Bradford Northern.....30
Workington Town.....20

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT WAS the small fry rather than the big fish that Bradford Northern failed to land last season. Leigh's last act before relegation was an upset at Oldham, which lost Bradford their chance of winning the Stanes Bitter rugby league championship.

There was no such embarrassment against promoted Workington Town yesterday, and once more in the continuing sea-saw with Wigan, Bradford lead the championship by two points. It was not so much a magnificent seventh victory, as a walk-over in the wet.

Roadworks delayed Workington's arrival. They then encountered a concrete wall. A formidable Bradford pack gave them little room. This was a stark awakening for Workington, after their first win at Hull's expense last week. Even on such a grey-slate day, Bradford were willing to exercise their pacy backs. Fox's precision kick-and-chase game confounded the stunned visitors.

Bradford are hard to resist in this form. Although Newlove eluded three tacklers to score a try that typified the Great Britain centre's strength and balance, it was Fraisse, the Frenchman, linking with Cordle on the right wing, that sent Workington reeling initially.

Hepi lost possession on halfway. Heron was alert to the opportunity, and Cordle was up on the inside after Fraisse went flying down the touchline. Were it not for an offside decision and a saving tackle by Marwood, Cordle would have had a hat-trick in the first 15 minutes.

Marwood landed Workington's only points, but his sin-binning for restraining Newlove in the tackle prompted a rapid collapse. Dixon immediately bludgeoned his way past Ellison, the helpless full back, for a try by the posts, before Medley slipped Fraisse free, and Odsal reverberated to the sound of the *Marseillaise* over the Tannoy.

The damage had been done and Workington's desperate more openings in the second half, failed in making headway. Mulligan butter-fingered a Marwood pass and the eager Watson pounced. The New Zealander then followed up Fox's clever chip over Workington heads to release Cordle for his deserved second try.

SCORES: Bradford Northern: Three Cordle (3), Dixon, Fraisse, Watson. Workington Goals: Fox (3). Workington Town: Goal: Marwood.

BRADFORD NORTHERN: D Watson, G Cordle, D Fraser, P Newlove, D Myers, D Heron, D Fox, R Powell, P Hepworth (sub), J Donohue, J Harker (sub), J S McInerney, S J P Dixon, P Ellison, K Fairbrother.

WORKINGTON TOWN: D Wilson, D Dymond, P Butler (sub), P Halsey (sub), V Parnell, L Smith, M Mulligan, D Marwood, J Parnell, P Halsey (sub), J Harker (sub), J S McInerney, S J P Dixon, P Ellison, K Fairbrother.

There was nothing lucky about Corinne Dibnah's victory — her thirteenth in Europe — in the BMW Italian Women's Open here yesterday, but it left the 32-year-old Australian feeling a bit giddy.

"I don't feel elated," she said after beating Dale Reid, her best friend, at the second hole of a play-off. "It's even worse when you have to go out and play your friend and I think she needed it more than I did." Still, it



Hill celebrates victory by quenching his thirst after the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril yesterday

Hill cuts Schumacher's lead to solitary point

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN ESTORIL

THE stage is set for the grand finale. Yesterday's Portuguese Grand Prix may have been decided by the absence of Michael Schumacher and at times it was decidedly dull but Damon Hill did what he had to do. He won his third race in succession and closed the gap on the German championship leader to a single point.

He triumphed with poise and maturity and a dash of adventure, too. With the race eight laps short of its halfway stage, he executed a bold overtaking manoeuvre on his only serious rival, his Williams-Renault team-mate, David Coulthard, attacking him when he least expected it and wresting the lead from him. From that moment on the race was under his control.

Afterwards, on the podium, he poured champagne into his trophy and gulped from it as Coulthard celebrated his richly deserved second place beside him. It was a bitter-sweet moment for the young Scot, his best result in his fledgling career but his last chance in a Williams-Renault before Nigel Mansell returns.

Still, his performance yesterday may have given him the edge over Mansell in the battle to secure a place beside Hill next season. Teams are already queuing up to offer Coulthard a drive for the last three races and obtain his services for next year if Williams reject him.

Hill is already assured of

his berth in the team next year, his confidence is soaring and he will have Mansell by his side, pushing him to the limit in the season's three-race de-nouement. Schumacher, fear-some competitor and mental strongman though he is, may feel the underdog when he returns to the fray in the European Grand Prix at Jerez three weeks from now.

"It is going to be a titanic battle, a real ding-dong," Hill said. "Schumacher will have been straining at the leash for the last two races so it will be interesting when he comes back."

"This is a magic result. People have been kind of considering that these last two races were going to be a foregone conclusion, with Michael being away so it is a relief for me. I am not over-confident about the last three. I know it is going to be tough."

Hill made a poor start and went into the first corner trailing Gerhard Berger and Coulthard. Berger led for the first seven laps until his Ferrari's gearbox failed and he had to retire. Coulthard, 23, driving in only his eighth grand prix, held Hill off beyond the first round of pit stops until his team-mate caught him by surprise.

"He caught me sleeping," Coulthard said. "I'm embarrassed but he did it. It was a fantastic overtaking move. I was not expecting him to try there because he had shown some concern about that section of the track in the drivers' briefing. If it had been anyone else, I would have defended my position but he took advantage of the situation."

"It would have been very unpopular if the two cars had come together and if I had not moved aside, it would have been a crash situation. I want to be here with Williams next season alongside Damon. I feel part of the team."

The result also took Williams to the head of the constructors' championship for the first time this season. Two points clear of Benetton, if they were the happiest team in the paddock, Ferrari were the most despondent and angry. Berger's misfortune was compounded by Jean Alesi being shunted off the track by the Simtek of David Brabham but the chief source of their displeasure was an incident on Saturday night.

The team was fined \$50,000 and given a ludicrously harsh suspended one-race ban after some of their mechanics broke down a gate to get out of the track.

"We have been subjected to a ridiculous and unacceptable penalty," a team statement said. "An appeal has already been lodged against the decision but we would point out that the action of the stewards definitely shows the state of confusion and a total lack of credibility and seriousness in Formula One which has been evident since the start of the season."

Oliver Panis, of France, was disqualified after finishing ninth in Estoril because the skid block on his Ligier was found to be undersized, according to an FIA technical delegate yesterday. Schumacher was disqualified for the same reason in Belgium last month.

hit a five-iron to four feet for a birdie two at the 17th, a 176yd par three, but Dibnah, friend or not, gave the tying putt her full attention.

In the play-off, they halved the 17th in par, then Dibnah drove into the bunker on the left at the 18th. Reid followed her in — "That was stupid," she said — and was always in trouble when Dibnah nipped a glorious eight-iron off the sand from 150 yards to 20 feet. Reid, with more lip on the bunker to contend with, left her second short and failed to get up and down in two, leaving Dibnah to pick

up the winner's cheque of £10,500. "It was a pity to have my only bogey of the day at that point," Reid said. She had won all four of her previous play-offs but won the last of her 21 titles in 1991. "Still, it's nice to be running into form in time for the Solheim Cup."

The Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour's first qualifying school will take place at La Manga next year, from March 11-18.

Scores, page 32
Singh wins in Paris, page 31

Mackenzie drugs test: officials hid other offenders

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AS COLIN Mackenzie, Britain's No 3 javelin thrower, was revealed over the weekend to have failed a drugs test, Tony Ward, the British Athletics Federation (BAF) public relations officer, said that other British athletes had failed tests in the past six years but had not been named.

Mackenzie is the fourth Great Britain international athlete to have failed since June and three club athletes are also known to have tested positive. Ward said that the athletes he was referring to were minor offenders in the same category as Solomon Wariso, the sprinter who failed a drugs test in July, and Mackenzie. "We have kept it proper in the past to keep the names of such individuals within the sport and not release them publicly," Ward said.

It seems likely then that the cases of Mackenzie and Wariso may not have been detected by the media. "The policy has been not to announce automatically the names of those who tested positive for what might be called grade-two offences," Ward added. "We did not think it was in the interests of the sport, or the individual, if they had committed an offence inadvertently, so they have quietly served their three month suspensions."

Ward added that although the athletes' identities had been kept secret, their numbers had been documented by the Sports Council, which conducts the tests. Peter Matthews, whose international track-and-field annual publishes detailed lists of drugs offenders, said that he was "surprised" to learn that the BAF had withheld names.

Mackenzie, suspended for three months pending a hearing, said yesterday that Professor Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, had invited him to attend his B-sample test with the assurance that the matter would not be made public. Mackenzie declined. "There was little point; if the A sample is positive, the B sample is going to be," he said.

His urine sample, taken at a meeting in Rovereto, Italy, on July 24, found a narcotic analgesic, dextropropoxyphene, contained in the painkiller he had taken for an ankle injury.

"I will not deny the fact that I have taken something which is illegal," Mackenzie said. But he said he was not using it to enhance his performance. "Dextropropoxyphene will cause drowsiness and, if it makes you feel drowsy, it is not going to make you feel particularly good, is it?"

Mackenzie is supported by Malcolm Brown, the Great Britain team doctor, who said: "I cannot think of any way it will make you throw the javelin further. This is an extremely trivial technical offence. It is not a stimulant, it is a mild painkiller."

Larsson lifts Sweden into Davis Cup final

SWEDEN, having trailed 2-0, completed one of the best comebacks in the history of the Davis Cup tennis tournament yesterday when they beat the United States 3-2 in Gothenburg to clinch a place in the final against Russia. Magnus Larsson beat Todd Martin in the decisive rubber, playing a series of immaculate cross-court shots to win 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

The tie turned dramatically when Pete Sampras was forced by injury to concede the first reverse singles to Stefan Edberg. Sampras, who returned only this month after a five-week injury lay-off, strained a hamstring muscle against Larsson on Friday and hobbled through the first set against Edberg before defaulting to protect his leg.

In the other semi-final, Russia completed a 4-1 victory over Germany, the defending champions, in Hamburg. Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Michael Stich 7-5, 6-3 while Bernd Karbacher earned Germany's only point by beating Aleksandr Volkov 6-4, 6-1.

Canberra dominate

RUGBY LEAGUE: The Australia touring team for England and France, led by Mal Meninga, containing seven members of the Canberra team that beat Canterbury 36-12 in the grand final in Sydney yesterday. In the 20-man squad, announced after the final, Meninga will be joined by Ricky Stuart, Laurie Daley, Bradley Clyde, Brett Mullins, Steve Walters and David Furner, all of Canberra. Meninga, who is making a record fourth tour, was playing his last match in Australia. The selectors named several untried players including Terry Hill (centre) and Steve Menzies (second row), both of Manly. The notable omissions included the Canberra forward, Jason Croker.

Whitaker misses out

EQUESTRIANISM: Lesley McNaught-Mandell, a former junior European champion who was born in Britain but now represents Switzerland, won the five-horse jump-off for the women's International Masters at the Daily Record meeting in Glasgow yesterday. Veronique Whitaker, the first to jump, set a still target with a clear round in 34.78sec on Everest Flatpact, but McNaught-Mandell, on Panock Goldrausch, bettered it by 1.6sec.

Woolmer takes charge

CRICKET: Bob Woolmer, left, has been appointed to coach South Africa in succession to Mike Procter. The former England batsman, who guided Warwickshire to an unprecedented treble this season, was preferred to Duncan Fletcher and Eddie Barlow. All three, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said that the decision had been unanimous.

Lessing moves to No 1

TRIATHLON: For the second consecutive year, Carol Montgomery, of Canada, won the £1,000 bonus for crossing the line first at the Bupa Bath International triathlon. Simon Lessing, of Britain, just failed to catch Montgomery after starting in 11 minutes later but he won the men's event to move to No 1 in the professional rankings.

Jets head for last eight

ICE HOCKEY: Slough Jets, of the British League first division, are virtually certain of a place in the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup after their 6-1 win over the premier division side, Basingstoke Beavers. Sheffield Steelers and Nottingham Panthers have clinched the two group C qualifying places with two games to spare.

Smith's repairs pay off

YACHTING: Lawrie Smith retained his Ultra 30 national title after his crew worked through the night to repair their boat, which was damaged in a collision with Russell Peters during the opening race on Saturday. Peters won the other two races on Saturday but Smith nursed his battered *Frontiera* to two victories yesterday.

Horner battles through

SQUASH: Of England's squad for the world championships in Guernsey next month, only Suzanne Horner had any success in the Talking Pages Open, at Windsor, moving into the final today by beating the German, Sabine Schone. Cassandra Jackman was injured and Martine Le Moignan and Sue Wright were beaten in earlier rounds.

Cup finalists decided

RUGBY UNION: Orange Free State will contest their first Currie Cup final for 13 years on Saturday after their hard-fought 33-30 victory over Northern Transvaal in Pretoria. They will play Transvaal, the holders, on their own ground at Springbok Park in Bloemfontein, where they beat England in May.

Dörre wins in Berlin

ATHLETICS: Katrin Dörre, left, of Germany, winner of the London Marathon for the past three years, won the women's race in the Berlin Marathon in a personal best time and course record of 2hr 25min 15sec. Antonio Pinto, 28, from Portugal, ran superbly, dropping Samuel Nyangincha of Kenya, less than two miles from the finish, to take the men's race in 2hr 30min 31sec.

Collings stays unbeaten

SHOOTING: Stuart Collings, of Marlow, completed an unbeaten season over the country's longest ranges yesterday when he won the grand aggregate at the autumn match rifle meeting with 440 out of 450. Collings trailed Alan Dixon by one point after Saturday but came through strongly yesterday to win by six points from Hugh Butcher.

Faurie keeps title

EQUESTRIANISM: Emile Faurie and Virtu retained their national grand prix title at the Shell Gas National Dressage Championship at Addington Manor yesterday. For Faurie, 30, a dual European medal-winner, and the 15-year-old Virtu, it crowned another year of success, but it will be their last. Virtu will be retired at the end of the season.

Dibnah takes little pleasure in defeating friend

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN LIGNANO

was Dibnah's own fault, for Reid, 35, the Scot from Ladybank, did not drop a shot in a closing round of 66 that featured matched halves of 33. That gave her a total of 277, 11 under par, one ahead of Sue Moon, an Anglo-Irish Californian, and two ahead of Lora Fairclough, the 54-hole leader who must have suspected she was in for the curse of an "interesting" round from the moment her second shot to the 1st careened off a tree at right angles and left her struggling to make bogey.

Dibnah, playing with Reid, to make matters worse, found herself two strokes adrift with four holes to play — eight under par to Reid's ten under, with Moon nine under — and proceeded to make the most unfriendly of assaults on the closing stretch. She holed on 30 feet for a birdie three at the 15th, from four feet for a birdie four at the 16th and from three feet for the birdie three at the 18th that forced the play-off.

Reid had threatened to keep the pursuit — Moon came within a couple of millimetres of making it a three-way play-off — at bay when she

hit a five-iron to four feet for a birdie two at the 17th, a 176yd par three, but Dibnah, friend or not, gave the tying putt her full attention.

In the play-off, they halved the 17th in par, then Dibnah drove into the bunker on the left at the 18th. Reid followed her in — "That was stupid," she said — and was always in trouble when Dibnah nipped a glorious eight-iron off the sand from 150 yards to 20 feet. Reid, with more lip on the bunker to contend with, left her second short and failed to get up and down in two, leaving Dibnah to pick

Pressure tells on young gymnast after Commonwealth Games glory

Pride comes before a fall for Reeder

More literally than she might have wished, Annika Reeder came back down to earth in the British national gymnastics championships in Guildford. A heavy fall from the bars and a slip on the beam, at the weekend cost the youngest-ever English gold medal-winner at the Commonwealth Games the chance of becoming overall national champion, an honour which went to Zita Lusack, a fellow member of the triumphant British gymnastics team in Victoria.

This morning, Reeder will be back at her desk at Roding Valley School in East Loughlin, Essex, nursing a severely bruised right elbow and reflecting between lessons on the vagaries of sporting fortune. One moment, sharing a BBC sofa with Linford Christie and being complimented by Des Lynam; the next, scrambling for pride in a cramped arena before an audience of anxious parents and strident schoolfriends. "She'll be disappointed," her coach, Rod Smith, said. "So am I." So were her parents, though, of course, they could not let it show.

The consolation of winning a new leopard for the best individual performance of the day, for her floor routine, did nothing to allay Reeder's sense of anticlimax.

She turns 15 next week, so still has time on her side. But not that much. Realistically, she has to reach her peak in the next two years before her hips broaden, her feet grow and her mind turns to things other than training for 25 hours a week and doing homework in the back of the car on the 70-mile round trip between school and gym.

The national coach, Adrian Stan, a roly-poly Romanian of good humour and erratic English, who is admired by some, suspected by others, has given dimensions to the perfect gymnast. Height between 1.42 and 1.48 metres, weight no more than 46 kilos and no less than 34. Anyone either side of the parameters is seen as an "exception" and, said Stan, world-class gymnastic systems are not built on exceptions. At present,



Andrew Longmore on how an English prodigy must haul herself back to the heights from unaccustomed failure

Reeder is exceptional for her talent alone. In two years' time, she might not fit so easily into the mould.

For Reeder, success at the Commonwealth Games has brought extra pressure to a schedule of work and play already close to overload. "It's been crazy with all the media attention. The phone just has not stopped ringing and there have been times when Annika has looked exhausted," her mother, Stephanie, said.

Besides being coach, psychologist, taxi driver and part-time father, Smith has taken on the roles of minder and agent since Reeder's pious smile became one of the more acceptable images of the drug-infested Games. Smith has blocked all interviews for the past two weeks. But if his charge wanted to be alone, she could have done no better than compete in the national championships, which was held in almost total secrecy.

No pre-publicity in the press, no banner headlines in the car



Reeder: disappointment

park, a crackling sound system, a minimum of information. The biggest hall in Guildford's Spectrum Centre was occupied by the Wado karate championships, so the gold medal-winners were packed off to the basketball court, a reflection of haphazard organisation but perhaps too of the sport's acute sensitivity to publicity.

"Come to do a piece on deformed children, have you?" asked one coach. As it happened, at the time I was admiring the courage and the quiet dignity of the gymnasts, who sacrifice vast swathes of their youth to pursue often unreachable dreams. But the issue of whether tender minds and bodies should be subjected to such unnatural pressures is as close to the surface as the tears of failure which washed through the biggest day on the domestic calendar.

"It is a fine line between pressurising a child and supporting her. You have to be careful to stay on the right side," Smith said. The temptation, though, for coach and parent is to lose the perspective and to subject the needs of the child to personal fantasies.

"This has become our way of life," Stephanie Reeder said. "We rush about and sometimes think 'what on earth are we doing?' and, of course, we are aware of the dangers. But we could not stop Annika from doing gymnastics if we wanted to. The impetus comes from her."

In Reeder, Lusack and Karen Symko, Great Britain has three gymnasts capable of qualifying the team for the Olympic Games by finishing in the world's top 12 teams next summer. "The Commonwealth Games was like a breath of air for the whole sport," Stan said. "There was Annika sitting next to Linford and, for once, everyone could feel really proud. It could be the big turning point for us." So many hopes on such tiny shoulders.



Lindsay Grove, of the Bradford club, gets the balance right at Guildford

Doherty takes early lead in Masters final

By Phil Yates

BY ESTABLISHING a 5-3 lead over Stephen Hendry in the final of the Regal Scottish Masters at Motherwell yesterday, Ken Doherty, who beat Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-5 in the semi-finals on Saturday, displayed his credentials as one of the circuit's strongest performers.

Hendry, winner of the event in 1989 and 1990, was understandably buoyant at the start of the best-of-17 frame final after his clinical 6-2 defeat of Steve Davis, his fiercest rival, in the other semi-final, but Doherty has developed into a player who refuses to be intimidated.

The Irishman, a 10-9 conqueror of Alan McManus in the final here 12 months ago, had shown against O'Sullivan, the United Kingdom champion, that tenacity was high on his list of assets by winning the closing two frames on the pink after overturning sizeable deficits in both.

Doherty, the world No 7, compiled an 83 break in the second frame but Hendry, as solid as he had been against Davis and Jimmy White in the quarter-finals, led 2-1 thanks to break of 73 and 83.

Hendry, who beat Doherty 6-5 on the way to capturing the Top Rank Classic title in Thailand earlier this month, had an opportunity to win the fourth frame as well but, at 39-36, he missed an awkward black with the cue ball uncomfortably close to a side cushion.

A last red to blue clearance enabled Doherty to level at 2-2 and he moved ahead for the first time with an excellent 59 clearance in frame five when Hendry, 38 points up, missed an ambitious long red to a baulk pocket. The loss of that frame unsettled Hendry. Safety mistakes and errant long pots contributed to his downfall in the following two as Doherty compiled breaks of 86 and 62 to open a 5-2 lead.

Hendry seemed fully aware of the importance of the afternoon's final frame. The

Scott, realising that a 5-3 deficit was manageable while recovery from 6-2 represented a tall order, fully exploited the scoring chance he was given.

When Doherty was given pace with an attempted return to the safety of baulk, Hendry stepped in with a decisive 69 break. It left Doherty needing four of the remaining nine frames to secure the £50,000 first prize.

Although Hendry left the arena undoubtedly concerned about the quality of Doherty's snooker, the world No 1 has a history of powerful surges in the concluding phase of finals. In 1990 Hendry trailed Nigel Bond 5-3 in the Rothmans Grand Prix final



Doherty: tenacious

only to string together the next seven frames for a 10-5 victory and, in 1992, he rallied from 14-8 down to beat Jimmy White 18-14 in the climax to the world championship.

However, the most memorable comeback of his career came in the final of the 1991 Benson and Hedges Masters when Hendry beat Mike Hallett 9-8 after trailing 7-0 and 8-2.

The knowledge of that impressive portfolio of revivals ensured that Doherty took nothing for granted on the resumption last night.

SCORES: Semi-finals: Doherty (Ire) to R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-5, S Hendry (Sco) to S Davis (Eng) 6-2. Final: Doherty leads Hendry 5-3. Frame scores (Doherty first): 29-78, 83-0, 7-85, 74-30, 61-40, 86-0, 66-20, 79-79.

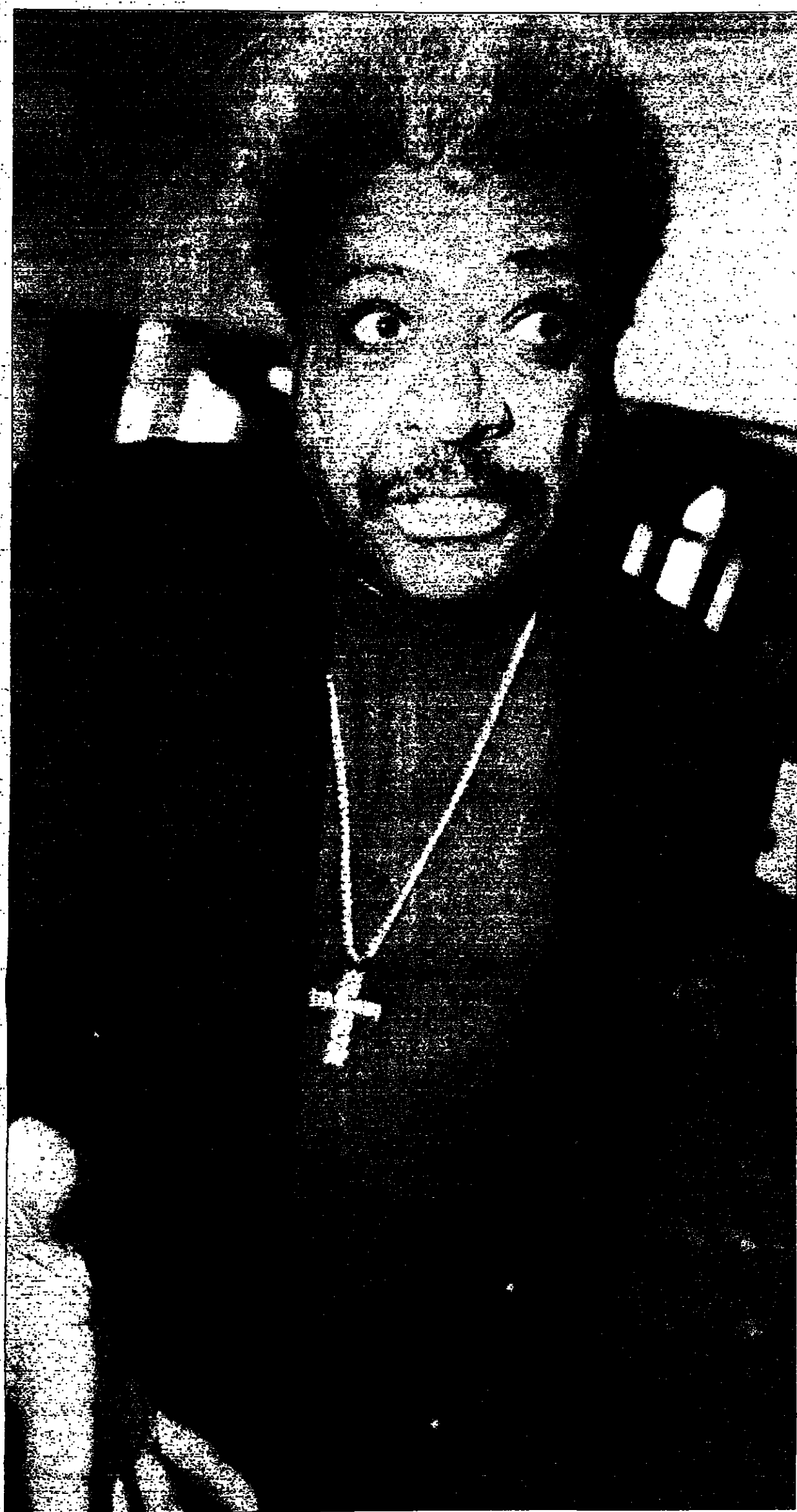


ONE DOG AND HIS MAN

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Introducing Big Don King, undisputed heavyweight champion of the world...



Don King: "What do you want me to say? Want me to call you a bigot, a racist? I mean, you ain't that are you? ... Don't always say because you're accused you're guilty!" Photograph: Simon Walker

Still taking care of business, still talking a good fight

Just for a moment back there, he looked like a fat, knackered, old man, a bit like George Foreman on his last comeback, only not in such good nick. Big Don King was slumped in the back of Little Frank Warren's motor as it pulled up to the hotel. He was practically horizontal, his eyes closed, his trademark electric grey hair sagging all over Warren's upholstery. Then, as the engine died, King bounced out, and another motor started up, the one attached to his mouth. "I love England, jolly old England! I love you all, each and every one of you. I am only sorry that I have come to take that title." He shifted up from first to fourth, and yelled: "Goin' take that title back to A-merryca! I will take it back with me!" And then back down to second, all serious: "Oliver is going to win, round five, there will be some thunderous blows exchanged, but he will win! I am as happy as I can be. Amen."

As it turned out, King had every reason to be happy, especially as McCall won in the second rather than the fifth. But never mind that, I wanted to know: where do you get your hair done, Don? King swung round to me, and shouted: "It's natural man! Natural! I just comb it, like this, and it goes zing!"

He dug out his comb, flick, flick, and sure enough, zing, his hair stood up on end, fully six inches, going up and back at about 60 degrees. And has your hair always done that, Don? "No man! Lemme tell you. One day, years ago, 'bout four o'clock in the morning, there was a tremendous rumbling and a tumbling in my head, and my hair went ring! zing! ting! and it stood up, man, it stood up. Ain't that something? Hey, where's the rest room 'round here Frank?" Warren is a bit of a character himself, but he looked insignificant beside The Don, like Pacino paying his dues to Brando. He found the lavatory.

We trooped in: me, King, Warren and a very large man who described himself as an "associate of Frank's". There were four of us in a line at the trough. Funny, I don't usually have this problem — but wedged in between the Associate and King, it just wasn't happening. Warren and his Associate seemed untroubled. And King? Well, he seemed happy enough, and he stayed at the trough long after I had pretended to finish. I suppose you could say that he was doing what some say he has been doing to fighters and the boxing public these 20 years past, and from a great height.

The rest room belonged to the Britannia Hotel in London's Docklands. This



Robert Crampton listens to the best-known promoter in boxing indulge in some verbal sparring

was two days before Lennox Lewis, the holder, fought Oliver McCall for the World Boxing Council heavyweight title in front of a thin crowd at Wembley Arena. McCall is King's fighter and Big Don and Little Frank were at the hotel for the traditional pre-fight press conference and name-calling. Despite McCall's transparently King-inspired efforts to wind up Lewis ("I bin disrespected! My mother was mentioned! Never mind 'bout no stuff in no ring, this gonna happen right now! Right now! Gonna beatchor ass right now!" and so on and so forth) the real, the undisputed star of the show was, who else, the one, the only ... Don King.

He timed his entrance to be respectfully late. As he came in, diamond crucifix glinting

sell no tickets! He insults the public, the British public says my man is a sparring partner! You want them to give up their quids, their pounds sterling, to go see it. You tell a guy to pay £200 for a ticket and then tell him he ain't coming to see nothing 'cos my man'll be gone in a minute. We all know it's a lot of hypocrisy and we playing a game! But it's a promotion game. You got the first English heavyweight champion in a hundred years and nobody wants to see him! That's sad man."

What would he have done differently, had he been promoting? "England is 2,000 years old! You gotta lotta intelligence here. You got culture, history, class. I'd a tied 'em altogether! The chambermaids! The butlers!

after 62 years of hard training. This man could unify the world heavyweight ego files tomorrow. While King is not quite an original — it is clear that Muhammad Ali taught him to rap, for instance — he'd be worth an entrance fee.

King owes a lot to Ali — his association with the legend and his part in Ali's rehabilitation explain why he has survived and prospered for 20 years. Rather like Jesse Jackson being on that Memphis balcony when Martin Luther King was killed, Don King has also had the blood of the Greatest on his shirt, and he has used that holy robe to cajole fighters into his small print. That — and the promise of making pots of money, of course, which many of them claim they never received.

King came from nowhere to stage Ali v Foreman, the Rumble in the Jungle, in Zaire in 1974. Well, actually, he came from prison, where he had served four years for manslaughter after kicking a man to death in Cleveland, Ohio, where he ran a numbers racket. The Rumble turned heavyweight boxing into premier global television entertainment, a position the sport held until 1992, when King's main man, Iron Mike Tyson, went down for rape. King has spent the last two years trying to sew up the middleweight divisions and get Big Mike freed on appeal. He goes to see him in prison once a month. How does he look forward to Tyson's release? "With great anticipation." Would he like to have Lewis in his stable? "He will find me! Just as sure as your name is ... is ... whatever it is, he will be at my doorstep. I'm his black brother, man."



'It's natural, man! My hair went ring! zing! ting! and it stood up, man, it stood up'

in the television lights, large men in suits pressed up to shake his hand. "Huh-huh-huh-huh-hah-hah-hah-doing!" The Don said, moving slowly on, laughing all the while. The large men would whisper in his ear. The Don would whisper back. I tried to listen, but these human pillars in pinstripes kept getting in the way. I tried barging them but hurt my shoulder.

King took the stage and gave plenty. Afterwards, when I managed to corner him again, he was on a roll. He wanted to slag off Frank Maloney, co-promoter of Lewis v McCall. Maloney, he claimed, had made the mistake of talking down the challenger's ability. "He can't

Get the street people, with the tea, saying 'My, my, there's gonna be a heavyweight title fight'. And the elite! The MPs! Man, I would even have invited the Queen! You understand? In fact, I would have brought 'em all in. A family that's been having trouble, now let's come together." King raised his arms like a preacher, the better to shepherd the Windsor into his flock, and mopped his brow.

If they had put King in the ring to talk for 12 rounds at Wembley, they would have sold more tickets than they did for Lewis v McCall — provided King had been promoting himself, of course, which would not be difficult.

King plays this race card often and shamelessly. He played it to secure Ali and he played it when I asked him about the boxes suing him in the States. "Ooooo! Who cares about what they say man? What do you want me to say? Want me to call you something? Want me to call you a bigot, a racist? I mean, you ain't that are you? ... Don't always say because you're accused you're guilty!"

But what about these charges? "Thass the 'Merican way! What can happen? What do they mean? That you're guilty, possibly? 'No! Now you're talking completely innocent! Now you is getting down to the nitty-gritty! Completely innocent! I love America! The greatest country in the world, the sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Don't enslave me, yea shall I be a witness for that country. Hah-hah-hah! Whooooooah! Wuh! Wuh! And so on. And so on. Talks a good fight, doesn't he? But I'd had enough, and my towel went in."

Andy Martin goes ringside in our search for the best deal for the paying spectator

One punch brings night of passion to sorry end

The two heavyweights squared up, eyed each other warily, and traded some tentative punches. Then their mates waded in. It was just a bit of preliminary exuberance around 10.30pm outside the American Charcoal Burger Kebab House on the road to Wembley Arena on Saturday. I ducked and weaved around the kind of fracas you might normally expect to find along Stadium Way.

At least it was free. Then I shelled out £100 to get in and watched fighting with gloves on — only to see an American wipe the floor with our boy in two minutes flat. Don't panic, I thought, it's just another of the warm-up fights, in which Robert "Powerhouse" Allen, from Louisiana, politely refrained from completely pulverising the "gallant" Kasem Clayton, from Coventry. Much more promising as an omen of things to come was another American, Gary "Freight Train" Lane, who, let's face it, was a quivering tub of jelly.

The main event — the World Boxing Council heavyweight title bout between Lennox Lewis and Oliver McCall — was not until Sunday morning, so I had a saunter around and moved straight from Darwinian struggle for survival in the ring to Marxian class struggle outside it. Upstairs, the only decent bar and restaurant, The Arena, had been appropriated by a "private party" while, downstairs, alcohol was prohibited from 11.00pm. All my £100 ticket bought me was a look at the bourgeoisie as they guzzled, while I made do, as one of the proletariat, with coffee in a plastic beaker.

Some of them were worth looking at, though. There were more glossy, glittering, hydroponic women at this fight than in Baywatch. The only problem was that they were mostly consorts of equally well-developed men with oddly contoured ears and noses. I was about to strike up a conversation with one solitary female fight fan when the arrival of a bloke who reminded me a lot

of Mike Tyson, except for his kilt, rather cooled my interest.

They say that the sight of grown men trying to beat one another to a pulp arouses a woman's passion. All I know is that if you want a date at the big fight you had better bring your own. I would not take my wife to see this barbaric sport but, like most of the other married men there, I would

definitely take my mistress. If I had one.

In the first bank of tiered seating on the red side, I had a grandstand view of the main event, close enough to see the blood and sweat but not so close I would have to get my Paul Smith hound's-tooth dry-cleaned afterwards. "God, he looks fit!" gasped the man on my right when McCall finally appeared at 11.55pm. "But

then," he added judiciously, "so do I when I walk out to the crease — until someone bowls at me."

In the pre-bout psychological sparring Lewis was way ahead on points. He remained composed, serene, unmoving at the centre of the ring, while his doomed opponent danced nervously in his corner. In my analysis, Lewis never noticed the fight had started and remained composed, serene, unmoving, psyching-out his hyperactive adversary. He went straight from laid-back to laid out. When McCall did a Pat Cash among the spectators, the crowd behind me — at a safe distance — were lucky him up to try them on. Inviting the chairs were nailed down.

"It's going to be a long way back for him," sighed the man next to me. Then the woman on my left exploded: "You can bloody say that again. We've come all the way down from North Yorkshire for this fight." Her passion was aroused at right. "I told 'im I'd kill 'im if it only lasted one round."

She wasn't the only one with

a long haul ahead. I caught the slow night bus (N18) to Trafalgar Square. The collective post-mortem on board came to several distinct conclusions: (a) it only takes one punch in boxing; (b) Lewis wanted to be loved so he had to be a loser; (c) a Hollywood conspiracy — Spielberg called the day before to offer him a starring part if only he didn't spoil his good looks on the night; (d) it was a fix — the ref was nobbled by Don King.

Raymond Jones, who espoused the last and most popular of these theories, got on at the stop after me exclaiming: "Two quid for a bus ticket! I've already been ripped off once tonight." As I was calculating I'd paid about £30 a minute, Raymond told me he'd bought the cheap seat (£37.50) but had lashed out on a £500 dead cert bet on Lewis to win (at 5-1 on). "I'm gutted! Now I'm probably homeless as well as jobless. Do you know anywhere I can get legless?"

THROUGH THE TURNSTILE

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Longbottom leads team title defence

BY PETER BRYAN

VICTORY yesterday by the North Wirral-Kodak defending quarter in the British Cycling Federation's 78km team time-trial championship at Bury St Edmunds probably marked the last occasion the title will be held.

The event had its swansong at last month's world championships after 32 years and Britain is now likely to follow suit and replace it with an individual race against the clock.

If so, it will not be a decision that has the full backing of club teams. Peter Longbottom, North Wirral's successor as leader when Chris Boardman turned professional last year, was one whose gold-medal ride yesterday was tinged with regret.

The pace. The North Wirral club, which set a precedent in fielding all four riders in England's Commonwealth Games team last month, called up their silver medal-winners for duty at Bury St Edmunds. Longbottom, Paul Jennings, Matthew Illingworth and Simon Lillistone never looked likely to be challenged after they set the standard to the first check at 16 miles.

The clock showed 32min 09sec, exactly a one-minute lead from the Delta Racing Team, and the advantage continued to increase as the foursome sped smoothly at 42mph to the finish, almost three minutes clear in 1hr 33min 52sec.

Boardman, however, racing at international level in France at the weekend, was not as successful. The world time-trial champion suffered a stomach upset in the 84km Grand Prix des Nations to finish seven minutes behind the in-form winner, Tony Rominger.

Leading two-year-olds come under the microscope in searching tests at Newmarket

Art Of War rated a 7-4 chance for Middle Park

By JULIAN MUSCAT

A SERIES of reputations will be either advanced or damaged beyond repair as the European racing season reaches a crescendo over the next seven days.

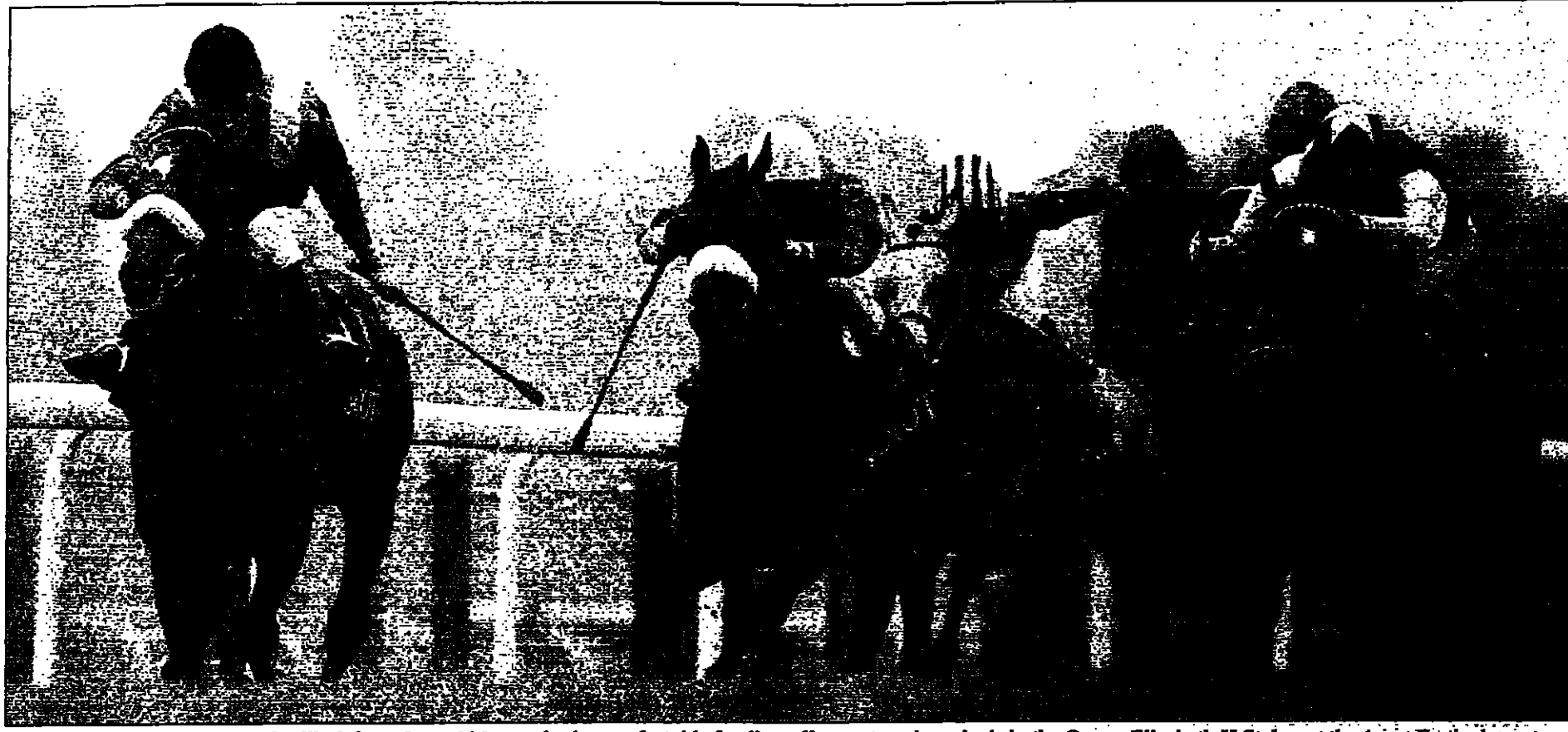
The credentials of Harayir, favourite for next season's 1,000 Guineas, face a searching examination at Newmarket tomorrow when she tackles the Cheveley Park Stakes.

On Thursday, Art Of War attempts to usurp Sri Pekan's place at the head of the two-year-old colts in the Middle Park Stakes, and there are high hopes of a British victory in that most elusive of prizes, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris on Sunday.

Ladbrokes yesterday issued prices on the Middle Park, quoting Art Of War, trained by Roger Charlton, as the 7-4 favourite. They then bet 4-1 Bin Nashwan, 6-1 Green Perfume, 7-1 Follow, 10-1 Alami, 12-1 Raah Algharh, 14-1 and upwards the rest.

Art Of War, who may have laboured on easy ground when winning at Kempton three weeks ago, will take his chance whatever the state of the ground. "There's no point in ducking the issue at this stage, so he'll run if he is well," Charlton said.

On the race front, Barry Hills yesterday committed his Sri Leger winner, Moonax, to the fray. John Reid, the colt's big-race partner, acquainted himself with Moonax by dint



Maroof and Richard Hills, left, spring a 66-1 surprise by comfortably fending off some top-class rivals in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at the Ascot Festival.

of an easy gallop over six furlongs on Saturday, prompting Hills to talk enthusiastically about the challenge facing his 15-furlong classic winner.

"I am sure the horse has improved since the Sri Leger," he said of the 20-1 shot. "He is coming back in distance but I

don't think this is a sensational Ark. One or two in the field have top-class form but, equally, some have been at it for a long time. Shaikh Mohammed is keen to run him. In addition to Moonax, the shaikh's silks will adorn Carnegie, Richard Of York, Intre-

pidity and King's Theatre in a five-pronged assault. Hernandez, most disappointing in the Prix Foy two weeks ago, continues to attract Arc support and was cut to 10-1 by Ladbrokes yesterday. However, a more significant development was Corals ex-

tending White Muzzle's odds, from 4-1 to 5-1 joint-favourite with the Luca Cumani-trained Only Royale.

The firm's representatives were singularly unimpressed with the display of White Muzzle's jockey, Yutaka Take, who rode Ski Paradise into

fourth in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on Saturday. Take, the Japanese champion, had Ski Paradise at the rear of the field before the combination made late headway into fourth place.

It was hardly the most inspired piece of jockeyship, although Ski Paradise, who broke tardily, was never likely to be suited by Ascot. The short finishing straight militates against the successful late burst. Ski Paradise employed to such telling effect in the Prix du Moulin three weeks previously.

Billed as the mile champion of Europe, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes delivered the biggest upset in the 39-year history of the race when Maroof, a 66-1 chance, galloped clean away from five classic winners for a rout as stunning as it was unexpected. All the post-race theories in the world cannot disguise the fact that Maroof had never before hinted at this level of ability in six outings this term.

However, to suggest there was an element of fluke about

Results from Saturday's meetings Page 32

this victory would be unfair on Maroof, who has two screws binding together the cannon (shin) bone he fractured as a juvenile. His trainer, Robert Armstrong, expects to campaign Maroof in 1995, when the colt will have the opportunity to endorse his new-found status.

This was Maroof's last outing of the season, but the racing career of Mister Bailey, the 2,000 Guineas winner, is almost certainly over. His trainer, Mark Johnston, revealed the colt has been afflicted by a leg injury similar to the one he sustained in the Sussex Stakes.

With the flat season now in its closing stages, Mister Bailey is expected to take up residence at the National Stud in Newmarket.

Festival frees shackles of tradition

Dates for the diary: September 29-30, 1995. Ascot Festival of Racing. Underline in red ink not to be missed.

You have not just read a series of typographical errors. And no, this column - highly critical of the Ascot executive in the past - has not taken a temporary leave of its senses. For the undeniable impression from this year's Festival of Racing is that Ascot, in casting off the shackles of tradition, has recast itself for enjoyment by the general public.

How fitting, therefore, that the opening Diadem Stakes was won by Lake Coniston. On the day Ascot bent over backwards to promote its wares, a metaphorical justice prevailed when thoroughbred Racing Ltd, a 15-strong syndicate, cheered Lake Coniston every step of the way into the winner's enclosure. If syndicates represent the new face of racehorse ownership, then greater public participation is the new priority of racecourse management. Ascot



Racing commentary

willingly embraced the theme and was rewarded with a 26 per cent rise in attendance. After any number of false starts, let the festival truly begin.

It was not just the public, voicing with their feet, who took umbrage at the Ascot of old. Racecourse owners voted it the least popular of venues, a startling disavowal given their prominence in society as a whole. Here was this jewel of a racecourse - with its pageantry, manicured lawns and unmatched viewing facilities - driving away the patronage for which it craved. But there was never

much wrong with the place. It just needed fine tuning.

Until recently, the last people to approach for assistance were the ones duty-bound to provide it: the bowler-hatted gatemans. A surly lot, they were best left to themselves for fear that they might expel you from the enclosure. "Your badge, sir, is completely the wrong colour. It is red today; it was blue yesterday." It was the biggest fear certainly that your entrance through the racecourse gates would be greeted with a suspicious eye that detailed your every move. Now, the transformation of these gawling gatemans has been something to behold. They are pleasant, helpful and courteous.

For the first time on Saturday, a popular day to judge by the example of other sports, but that is for the future. If the weekend's events are any guide, Ascot racecourse is poised to entertain its customers in a manner commensurate with its excellent facilities. The occasion promises much: do not forget those diary dates...

This emphasises a point not readily conceded by some racecourse managers: that the 30-minute gap between races can be a tedious business. Watching thoroughbreds patrol the paddock is strictly for the cognoscenti, whose enjoyment cannot have been impaired by the civil distractions.

There is further encouragement for next year in that the Festival will unfold over two days. The executive is concerned that a significant number of hospitality boxes might remain vacant on Sunday, the second day of the meeting.

Perhaps the lessons learned from promoting this year's Festival will apply equally to filling those boxes on Sunday, a popular day to judge by the example of other sports. But that is for the future. If the weekend's events are any guide, Ascot racecourse is poised to entertain its customers in a manner commensurate with its excellent facilities. The occasion promises much: do not forget those diary dates...

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
1.55 Shared Risk, 2.25 Ciltburn News, 2.55 Pierre Bosco, 3.25 Lafford, 3.55 Sharpening, 4.25 Aquilotta, 4.55 Black Boy, 5.25 East Bams.

GOING STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.55 PERCEVAL NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,262.61) (16 runners)

1. 6100 ORCA 19 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
2. 6100 DOLLY RACE 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
3. 6100 ALPACA 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
4. 6100 PLEASURE BEACH 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
5. 6100 SHARED RISK 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
6. 6100 CILTUBURN NEWS 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
7. 6100 PIERRE BOSCO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
8. 6100 LAFORD 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
9. 6100 SHARPENING 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
10. 6100 AQUILOTTA 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
11. 6100 BLACK BOY 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
12. 6100 EAST BAMS 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7

2.25 HOLY GRAIL APPRENTICES SELLING STAKES (£2,174.1m) (13 runners)

1. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
2. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
3. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
4. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
5. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
6. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
7. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
8. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
9. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
10. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
11. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
12. 0000 BASSO 20 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7

2.55 LEENGATE GROUP MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,638.70) (9 runners)

1. 0000 COASTGUARD CUTTING 18 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
2. 0000 BEAN BROTHER 18 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
3. 0000 PERSEVERANCE 18 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
4. 0000 BULLY BEGG 18 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
5. 0000 SPURRING BRIDGE 18 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
6. 0000 HOLLYHURST 18 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
7. 0000 PATS DELIGHT 18 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
8. 0000 SHARP HOLLY 18 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7

3.25 ALEX LAWRIE FACTORS FILLES HANDICAP (£3,621.1m) (17 runners)

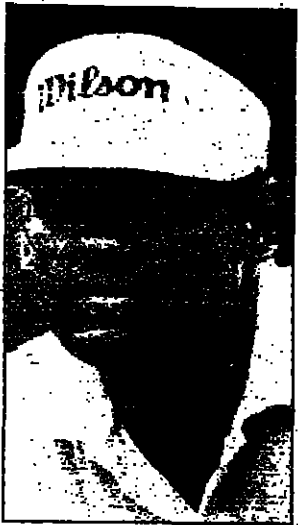
1. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
2. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
3. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
4. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
5. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
6. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
7. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
8. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
9. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
10. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
11. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7
12. 0015 LADY 15 (D) 5-11 (L) 2-7

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mr M. B. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 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1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1

Record score helps Fijian win Lancôme Trophy from the front as Ballesteros and Jiménez fade

Singh remains calm to resist Spanish challenge



Singh: Improved swing

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN ST-NOM-LA-BRETECHE

VIJAY Singh brought an afternoon of glorious autumnal sunshine to a close yesterday when he snatched victory in the Lancôme Trophy from his playing partners, Severiano Ballesteros — a darling in Paris as everywhere else — and Miguel Ángel Jiménez. It was some afternoon, and it was some golf. Singh, Ballesteros and Jiménez were an aggregate of 12 under par for their concluding 18 holes and the lead changed hands no fewer than seven times.

Singh, the Fijian who now plays most of his golf in the United States, had a 66 that gave him a 72-hole total of 273, 17 under par. This is pretty good scoring at any time, and suggests that his new swing is

beginning to pay off. It beat the four-round record for this event, set last year by Ian Woosnam, by one stroke, and it beat Jiménez, by one stroke. Jiménez, the Dutch Open champion, had a 67.

This was one stroke ahead of Ballesteros, who had reckoned he needed a 64 to stand a chance of catching Singh and Jiménez, who were three strokes ahead after 54 holes. Ballesteros birdied three holes in a row early on to lay down a few markers as to his intent, but he could only record a 65 which, as he had anticipated, was not good enough for what would have been his second victory of the season.

Ballesteros, who had finished second at Woburn last Sunday, and Jiménez were tied at 15 under par after the short 12th, which they birdied. These two Spaniards look so unlike they might come from

different continents. Jiménez appears a good 20 years older than his 30. He has a tuft of hair that sticks out from the back of his cap like Queen Victoria's bun. He is as expressionless as Ballesteros is vivacious.

On the 12th, Ballesteros putted first from 45 feet. As the ball moved

towards the hole he waved it on with his left hand, still holding his putter. As it reached the hole he rose on to the tips of his toes, urging it to give one more roll and disappear.

When it did so with his last turn, he toppled forward too, a smile on his face. Jiménez stroked in his 15-foot putt and moved off to the 13th

tee with as much expression as a man buying some stamps at the post office.

This last group was moving at a snail's pace, two clear holes behind when they reached the 12th tee. They were continually distracted by spectators dashing hither and yon. All Paris was on parade, dressed to the nines in their gaily-coloured clothes, coiffured hair and soft leather shoes — and these were just the men.

The first of Singh's significant strokes came when he chipped in from 25 feet on the 14th. "That chip in was my most important stroke of the round, for it gave me a lift when I needed it most," Singh said. It enabled him to draw level with his rivals. Jiménez birdied the 15th to take the lead, only for Singh and Ballesteros to birdie the long 16th.

The crowd seemed to urge Ballesteros on, but he was at war

with his driver. He hit his tee shot right on the 16th and again on the 17th, and just before he was to putt for a par, he watched Singh play perhaps the decisive stroke of the afternoon — a putt from 15 feet. When Ballesteros saw that putt go in, a little of the head of steam that he had got up went out of him. He missed from three feet and fell two strokes behind the Fijian.

Now all Singh had to do was to protect his lead on the 209-yard 18th, and although he bunkered his tee shot he hit his second so accurately it grazed the hole. A three was a certainty, and moments later victory was assured for the man who had led from the start.

Singh, who had only received his visa to play in France on Monday, had beaten a star-studded field six days later. It was his fifth victory in Europe.

LEADING FINAL-ROUND SCORES

GB and Ireland stated

263: V Singh (Fiji) 65, 63, 69, 66, 263; M A Jiménez (Sp) 67, 64, 66, 67, 264; S Ballesteros (Sp) 65, 69, 66, 65, 270; C Montanari (It) 68, 67, 68, 67, 272; J M Ocasio (Sp) 68, 68, 71, 65, 272; B Lane (Ire) 68, 67, 67, 67, 269; M Davis (Ire) 68, 67, 71, 68, 270; F Noble (NZ) 68, 68, 70, 67, 271; Mitchell 72, 68, 68, 66, 1; Westwood 60, 67, 71, 66, 68; H Clark 69, 67, 70, 68; Woosnam 68, 65, 70, 71; 275: J Hoggan (Ire) 68, 68, 71, 69; G Brand Jr 69, 68, 66, 71, 0; Gifford 69, 69.

67, 70, 278: A Colant 70, 66, 71, 69, S Tonnare 71, 69, 72, 64; E Romero (Arg) 72, 65, 70, 69; C Turner (NZ) 70, 65, 72, 69; C Rocca (It) 70, 67, 71, 68; R Davis (Aus) 69, 71, 68, 68, 277; D Clarke 72, 69, 68, 68; 278: B Langer (Ger) 72, 68, 67, 71, S Ames (Trinidad) 71, 68, 69, 70, A Lyle 73, 72, 68, 66, 278; M Hanwood (Aus) 70, 72, 67, 70, 280; C Mason 72, 69, 70, 69, 281; W Westner (SA) 75, 67, 67, 71, 281; G Orr 69, 72, 72, 65; R Clayton 71, 67, 72, 71; P Baker 71, 68, 73, 69; D Smyth 73, 70, 69, 69.

Billson's accurate reverse hit proves decisive

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

TEDDINGTON yesterday survived an exciting game of changing fortune at home to beat Southgate 4-3 in the men's National Hockey League after taking early control. They went 2-0 ahead with goals in the ninth and 21st minutes by Benzie and Billson, both chances having been set up by Gibbins.

Southgate reduced the lead in the 24th minute from a short corner struck by Warr and took a 3-2 lead with superb goals in the 33rd and 37th minutes by Welch from free hits by Castenskiold.

Teddington, gathering pace, were back in the match in the fifth minute when Billson intercepted Soma Singh's free hit and sent Gibbins on his way for Hancock to square the match at 2-3. Six minutes later Billson scored the winning goal with a strong reverse hit from a centre by Gibbins. Southgate had chances to save the day with three late short corners but were unable to take the last one because time ran out.

Like Southgate, Hounslow lost their unblemished record. They were beaten 4-1 at home by Reading. Osborn scored twice for Reading, once from a short corner, with Howard Hoskin and Graham adding the others. Robert Thompson replied for Hounslow.

Havant, the defending champions, who had drawn their two previous games, lost 6-2 at home to Guildford. Jennings opened Guildford's account from a penalty stroke in the second minute and further goals followed from Bilsland, Morris and two by Carmell. Gibbs scored the Havant goals.

Old Loughionians, who are still unbeaten, overwhelmed Hull, the home side, with a 4-1 victory, while the biggest win of the day was achieved by Camnock, who beat Slough 7-1.

Results and tables, page 32

Leicester happy with one starting point

BY ALIX RAMSAY

IT WAS with a huge sigh of relief that Leicester finished their first women's national hockey league match in a 1-1 draw with Hightown yesterday. One point in the bank, a promising performance and at last things were looking up.

For most teams the prospect of taking on the highly organised Hightown squad is hardly a fixture to relish, especially on the opening day of the season, and, after the summer Leicester have had, it could have been a confidence-sapping opening.

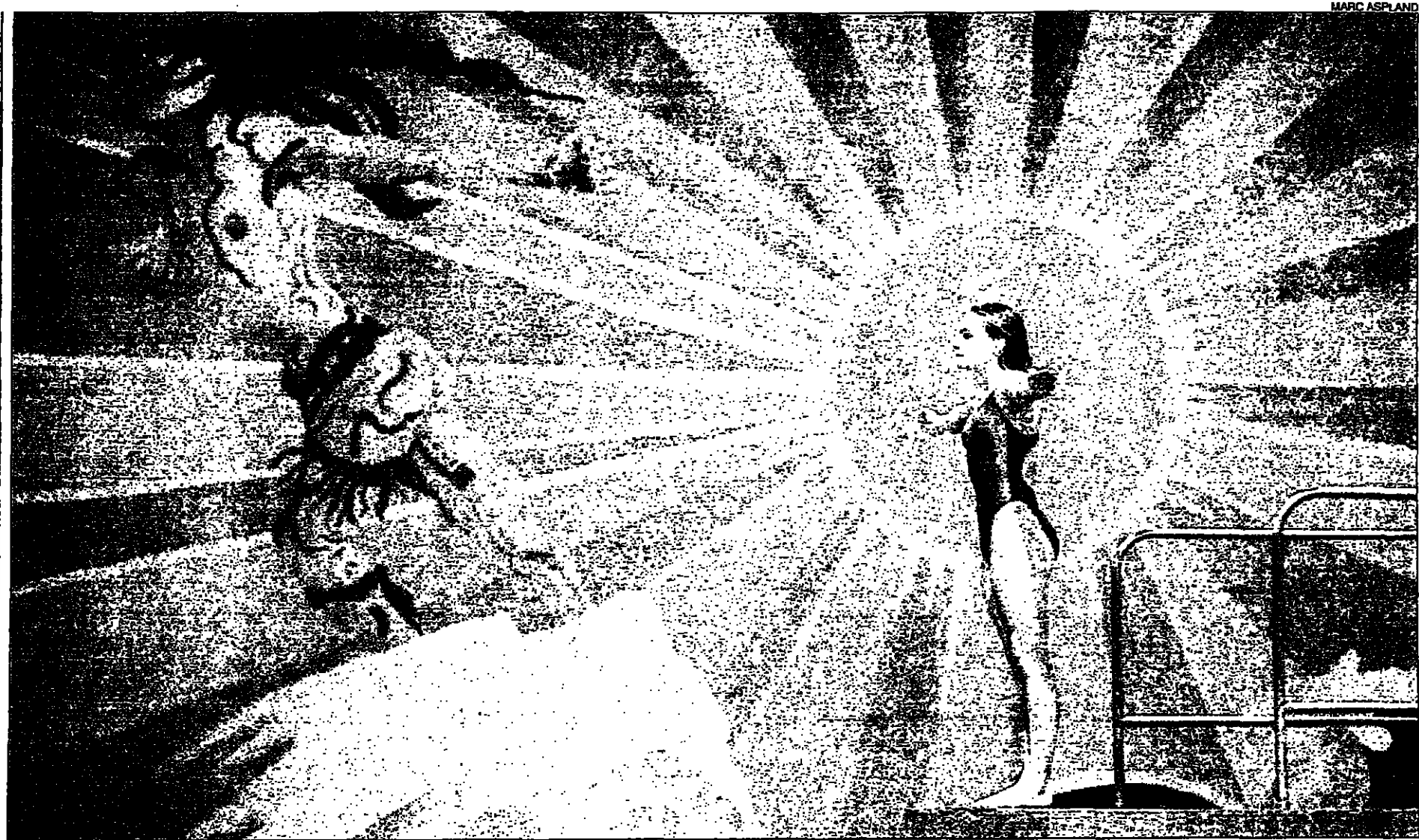
To compound their problems, the defending champions lacked Morag Laird and Sarah Naylor, both on the sick-list. The Leicester captain, Sally Saunders, knew they faced a struggle but she should not have worried so much.

Hardly likely to be a high-scoring encounter — both defences are too miserly for that — Leicester took their chance of the lead just before half-time. Sue Howell's swing at a penalty corner forced a save from the keeper, Lucy Cope fell on the rebound but Sarah Blanks made the final touch.

Hightown's pursuit of the equaliser was led by their player-coach, Maggie Souvay. Time after time she got the better of Vicky Knott and it was her drive across the Leicester circle that set up the goal, Lucy Newcombe diving full length to turn the ball in.

Clear-cut chances were rare for both sides, especially with Holwell taking charge of the Leicester defence. All in all, Saunders was happy with the performance after all the trials of the summer. A new coach, new players, a new manager — Leicester are still trying to make order out of chaos.

"There has been no time to organise properly or even to learn our game plans," Saunders said. "But it's nice to have some points or we would have been very edgy before our next game."



Before an imaginative backdrop, Lee prepares to dive during training at the Luton Kingfisher Club. She has won five national titles and trains six days a week

Champion schoolgirl with the gift of flight

BY JOHN GOODBODY

Watch a leaf as it falls off the tree in the autumn wind. It drifts downwards, twists, hovers, turns, spins round, flips over, and finally drops neatly to the ground. That is how Emma Lee dives. At 14 years of age, 5ft 6in and 90lb, she seems as delicate as a leaf. In fact, she possesses a reservoir of courage and is as tough as piano wire.

"Mentally she is so strong at handling emotions," Brian Hazelton, her coach said. "She has learnt that things do not always go right straight away when she is trying something new. She rationalises what has gone wrong. She then puts it out of her mind and up she goes to the board and tries again."

Yesterday she was a clear-cut winner in the junior girls' spring-

board event in division ten of the English schools championships. She is so neat and precise in her movements that it seems a natural gift, setting her apart from the other 2,000 competitive divers in schools. However, Chris Snodde, the former World Cup winner, said admiringly: "She is diligent when she trains. She is quick and agile and sometimes attempts more difficult dives than many of our senior competitors."

It has not always been easy. She began diving at 6½. "I did not like putting my head in the water," she recalled. "But I got used to it. Now I do not mind any more." She trains six days a week, at the Luton Kingfisher Club, at Crystal Palace or in the conservatory at Hazelton's home.

She is not only diligent at training but diligent in her work at Dame Alice Harpur School, Bedford.

SPORT
IN SCHOOLS

where she will be taking nine GCSE exams next year. Her mother, Karen, said: "When she gets home, she knows she has to sit down to her homework right away. There is no problem, she is very good. Exams are always said that, if any of our three children got into something serious-

ly, we would pay for them to do it."

It probably costs the parents of a top-class competitive diver up to £3,500 a year for training and coaching expenses and travel costs to 20 competitions a year. This is exceptional. For the parents of less ambitious young divers in Britain, the cost is far less.

Mrs Lee drives Emma to the pools and waits while she practises and trains, trains and practises. She was a gymnast herself. "I was club standard at gymnastics but I did not have the nerve for diving," she says.

Emma possesses abundant nerve. She has won five national titles and, Snodde said, has "come from nowhere" this year to compete in the European championships. Hazelton said: "She has progressed through the sport at a rate not seen before. She has also learnt dives at an earlier age than anyone else."

Divers are invariably accomplished gymnasts and Emma spends hours on agility and stretching work. When Hazelton opens his Dive Gym clinic in Luton next year, pre-school children will be starting with simple moves leading to recreational diving. Emma finds the physical prepara-

Schools wishing to bring the results of their sports teams to our attention may fax them to 071-782-5211

tion valuable for other sporting interests at school, which include swimming, badminton, hockey, netball and rounders. Do the other girls mind that she is an international diver? "No, mostly they like it. However, with one friend, if I do start talking about diving, she just changes the subject."

HAMILTON PARK

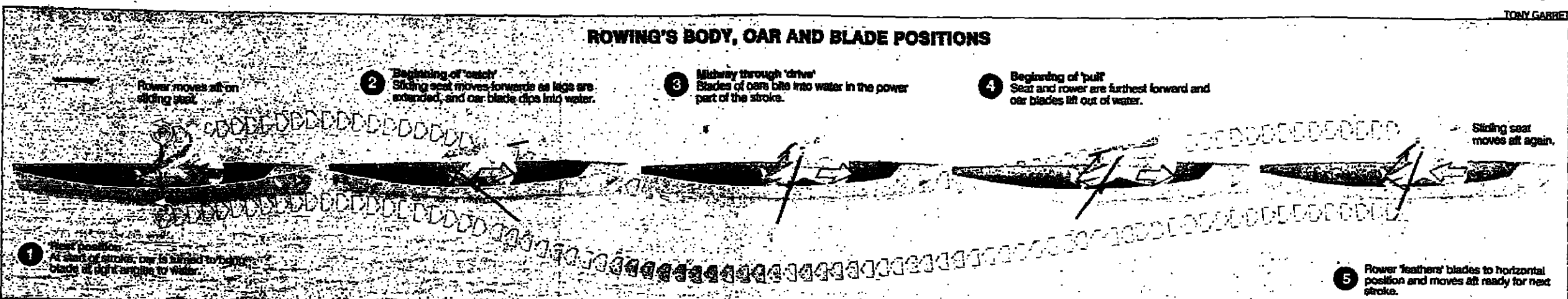
THUNDERER
2.00 Magical Blues, 2.30 Battleship Bruce, 3.00 Hillzax, 3.30 Hickleton Lady, 4.00 Double Blue, 4.30 Abigails Boy.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.30 HICKLETON LADY.

GOING: 6.00 DRAW: 6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

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Jonathan Gornall tests a craft designed to tempt keep-fit enthusiasts out of the gym and on to the water



The theory... and the real thing. Top, an illustration of rowing technique and, above, Alaina Aston in her scull. "The sport is really growing for women," she says. "It's great to be a part of it"

Rowing for your life

The figure sheltering beneath the umbrella on the bank grows smaller and, although the sheets of rain and the rapidly widening gap make it difficult to be sure, perhaps a little more agitated. Either he is rocking back and forth with mirth, or he has finally seen the error of his ways in allowing an utter novice to take to the tidal Thames in his pride and joy: a 17ft Mondago 525.

The Mondago is the flagship of The Row Boat Company's attempt to democratise sculling as a leisure activity — and it is being swept, stern first, towards the teeth of the Thames Barrier on a particularly virulent ebb.

Earlier that afternoon, everything had been so different. The sun shone as Chris Freer, a man with a mission to open the eyes of the gym-bound keep-fit enthusiast to the potential of "fun rowing", hove to at my riverside flat with his car-topable creation.

Chris has persuaded the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA), for years champions only of competitive rowing, that the time has come to welcome aboard the leisure rower. "Less than 5 per cent of bike owners race," he told them. You can almost hear the committee members wetting their lips as he adds: "If the same numbers could be applied to rowing, it would grow from a sport of 25,000 participants to 1,250,000."

Round-the-world sailor, yacht designer, author and general sea-dog, Chris decided after the 1989-90 Whitbread that he had had enough of sweaty yachting and needed the solitude of river travel. Casting about for a suitable craft, he found nothing on the market to suit his needs. So he switched on his computer and designed the world's

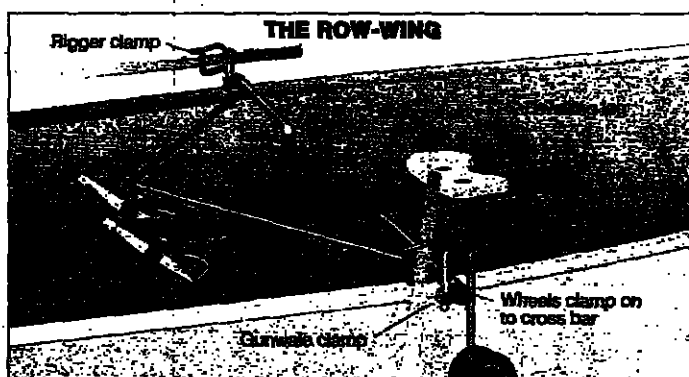
SPORT FOR ALL

first tank-tested leisure rowing boat, which he proceeded to prove in a series of solo trips down European rivers. In 1993 he celebrated his 50th birthday and first commercial year by winning the 22-mile Great River Race on the Thames, scandalising and then seducing the regulars at Henley

Recreational membership of the Amateur Rowing Association costs £15 a year, which buys personal and third-party insurance, and ten copies of *Regatta* magazine. The ARA, The Priory, 6 Lower Mall, London, W6 9DJ (081-741 5314). Contact The Row Boat Company, which produces boats from a little over £1,000, at 3 Manchester Road, Netley Abbey, Southampton, SO3 5DB (0703 456335).

and, crucially, winning product endorsement and a new membership category for fun rowers from the august ARA.

And so he and I row upstream from the slip at the Poplar, Blackwall and District Rowing Club. Or rather, he rows, with consummate ease, and I sit there. The rigger frame, and sliding mechanism comes as one adjustable unit fixed to the boat by four quick-release bolts. This enables us to convert the craft into a two-seater and still have



a workable centre of gravity. We scull past Canary Wharf and then land at a pub for lunch, then it's my turn. Nothing to it, surely. I, a veteran of health-club rowing ergometers, will presumably have no trouble with the real thing. And that, it dawns on me some miles further downstream, as I struggle

to regain the dignity of co-ordination, is partly why I'm here — a guinea pig. The tide has turned and I clearly hadn't been paying attention as Chris rowed us to the pub. There are, I can disclose, crabs aplenty in the Thames, and I'm catching them all. The carbon "hatchet" racing sculls bear little resemblance to the rowlock-jumping oars available on the Serpentine and, when I'm not smashing my knees and knuckles, I'm belting myself in the ribs each time I forget

the sequence. It's not as simple as it looks and I find it necessary to develop a mantra to maintain any kind of rhythm. Then Chris abandons ship. From the bottom of the boat he's fished out his patent undercarriage system and coaxed me ashore. We wheel the boat up the slipway and the sliding seat is reconfigured for one. It is I. Down comes the rain, up goes his umbrella and Tilbury here I come.

It is all I can do to keep my back and the bows pointing upstream, but the boat is incredibly stable. I am tiring just keeping in one place. I line up two trees in Island Gardens. Actually, I'm tiring and losing ground.

A raft of steel barges passes by, uncomfortably close. I force myself to recall Chris's saloon bar tutorial as the bow waves wash by and I struggle to deploy the sculls as stabilisers. More trees flash by. And doesn't the naval college look grand in this light?

Time to concentrate. "The rule is hands, body, slide." Oars in the catch position, seat forward, arms outstretched. Dig in, push back, feather the oars, slide forward. Again. It's all technique, brute force



Gornall at the oars approaching Canary Wharf

is redundant, but sweat mixes with the rain and stings my eyes. I risk a glance to the side. I'm no longer losing ground. I fight to keep the rhythm.

Every time I mess up I go straight to the catch position. It works. I learn to relax my grip and

allow the sculls to set their own pitch. I am going to live! The man under the umbrella is smiling as I finally put in. "When did you last have so much fun?" he asks. I ponder. At the dentist's? But he's right. That gym club rowing machine will never be the same.

Novice's single-minded approach

By GUY WALTERS

ALAINA Aston doesn't have time for a boyfriend. Why? The picture above should explain — it was taken at 6.30am, and Miss Aston can be found on the Thames in her sculler at that time three mornings a week. More alarming still, she does half-an-hour's training on a rowing machine beforehand, as a warm-up.

And three evenings a week are spent on weight-training. "After which," she says, "I'm so tired that I go straight to bed." She is totally dedicated to the sport — "My whole life is based around it. Besides, I haven't enjoyed this level of fitness for years."

Miss Aston is Canadian, and has lived in London for two years working as a finance and operations manager for an auditing company. Her first experience of rowing was when she watched the Boat Race last year. She fell in love with the spectacle, and joined the Thames Tradesmen club as part of a novice four. "We weren't successful," she says. "We rowed throughout the summer, but we only competed semi-seriously."

Things are getting serious since she took up sculling in August. "I'd like to go as far as possible," Miss Aston says. "Perhaps even to compete on an international level." Her coach, Phil Rowley from the International Rowing Association, believes in taking things slowly. "Anybody who wants to go to the top has to start at the bottom," he says. So, she has to be content with sculling to Putney bridge from her starting point at Chiswick bridge, getting ready for her first competition at the Wallingford Head on October 1.

Miss Aston is a member of The Tideway Scullers. For £120 per year she has the use of a sculler, the weights room, the club room and the showers. The boats are also insured by the club in the event of damage.

She is glad that more women are taking up rowing, challenging the sport's male domination. "Rowing is really growing for women," she says. "It's such an entrenched British institution, and it's great to be part of it." So far, she has suffered no ribbing, although she mentions that someone passed comment on the state of her blistered hands by stating that she had "men's hands". "Definitely not," she replied. "These are rowers' hands."

Run ferret, run

In the first of a series on the wilder shores of our sporting life, Paul Wilkinson goes ferret racing



Winning ways racing glory for a high-speed ferret

Ferrets generally don't get a good press. Their reputation has been damaged by too long an association with dubious characters who slip them into rabbit holes on someone else's land.

So the 1,300 members of the National Ferret Welfare Society, dedicated to improving the image of what they believe is a cuddly and much maligned animal, have come up with ferret racing.

A "course" of 20ft or so of plastic drainpipe per animal is laid out, with mesh windows every few feet to follow progress. There is no need for a hare, or rabbit; once the trap is open the ferret's questing nature does the rest.

Four ferrets go in each race with spectators encouraged to put on

20p bets. First down the pipe and back earns 40p for its followers, and any profit goes to society funds for rescue centres.

There is no bloodstock industry. Kits, as the young are called, can sometimes cost as little as 10p, so there is no point. A good adult is worth little more than £10, but with litters of ten to 20, supplies are plentiful. More than one uncaring owner has walked away from a rabbit warren after his

animal failed to surface, knowing there are plenty more at home.

The welfare society hopes that by staging races wherever it can, especially at country and craft fairs, the public might come to love the ferret. Children in particular are encouraged to handle the sleek little animals to see for themselves that they are not vicious, dangerous or bad-tempered.

Betty Shephard, the society's vice-chairman, says: "They are

delightful creatures, pleasant-natured and easy to house train, although they must be contained or their curious nature will take them far away."

It is estimated that 250,000 people own ferrets and there are many local societies. Mary Neale, the national society's membership secretary, admits that ownership can bring social stigma. "It can mark you down the social scale a couple of pegs. But if I can change one person's attitude and maybe find a caring home for just one ferret then I will feel happy."

•National Ferret Welfare Society: Bay Shephard (051 480 421). Next race meeting: Saturday and Sunday October 1 and 2. The Euro-Wire horse trials and country fair, Backwood Hall, Park Gate, Wirral.

West take lead role in North's fine day



Full rugby results and league tables ... Page 32

Their style demands precision; on Saturday, playing in constant rain and against a West midfield constantly exhorted by their coach to "come up" and deny Wasps space, accuracy was difficult and the long kick, particularly with

Dunston withstands a late tackle to dive over for Wasps' second try at Brierton Lane on Saturday

West had no such exhibitionism in mind. Having scored a delightful try in the opening passage through Stabler, the driving play of Watson and Shelley paved the way for the third-choice flanker, Emmerson, to score. Oliphant's goal-kicking estab-

SCOPERS: West Hartlepool: Trice, Stabler, Emmerston. Conventions: Orphoid (2), Pelly (2), Grogery (2), West: Trice, Stabler, Emmerston, Conventions: Orphoid (2), Pelly (2), Grogery (2).

WEST HARTLEPOOL: K. Ochoinski; H. Evans; A. Elwne; P. Hodder; D. Cooke; J. Stabler; D. Patterson; D. Ruby; S. Mitchell; M. Shelley; M. Emmerston; J. Doorn. K. Westgarth; A. Brown; M. Watson.

WASPS: J. Uthor; S. Hunter; G. Childs; D. Hopley; P. Hopley; G. Gregory; S. Salsis; G. Barnes; M. Gurney; D. Burnell; L. Bello; M. Greenwood; N. Gledhill; G. Williams; D. Hopley. M. Gledhill replaced P. Hopley (44 min); R. Kinsey replaced R. Hopley (39).

Reference: R. Cammell (Warrington).

Sale 4
Northampton

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

Old Trafford is just down the road; and of course, and a couple of delicious through balls by Turner were pounced on by Appleton. It was an auspicious debut for the former London Scottish wing, who revelled in the freedom, and carried out a mean tackling stint alongside Stocks and Barendse, an impenetrable centre pairing.

Northampton seemed

Bristol	19
Hardequins	14

By HARRY TROWBRIDGE

Black Eyes took down the Bristol mixed-games game between the two sides. Bristol's innovative, expansive game was duly reduced, but this provided Mark Tointon, at stand-off, with the opportunity to show his skills as a strategic kicker, which he did with consummate grace.

Emphasising the city's concern for a lack of penetrative centres, the Evening Post on Thursday ran a headline proclaiming that the "Heat is on Bristol's backs", suggesting that Saverrimuto, Knibbs and Mathews would be waiting should Denney or Wring falter. But this was not a match on which to judge them either way and it would probably be wrong to disrupt a winning unit. Even so, it is a pity to consider that, for he has under him a team whose confidence is growing week by week.

Drafting 50, then 14-0

Bath	32
Orrell.....	13

BY BRYAN STILES

SCHOENBERG, Bath: Tress; Singhchorn.
SCOTT, Bath: Tress; Singhchorn.
SEAR, Bath: Tress; Singhchorn.
Carr: 93. Penalty goals: Carr: 62. Overall:
 Tress: Wynn (2) Penalty goal: Vinerstree.

BATH: H Long; A Swift, P de Granville, A
 Lumsden, J Singhchorn, M Carr,
 Sanders, D Hilton, G Adams, J Madec,
 A Robinson, M Haug, A Reed S Gjerrud,
 B Clarke. Robinson replaced by F Bedow
 as temporary replacement for J
 Madec (57min)

ORRELL: S Langford, J Naylor, I Wyrr, P
 Johnson, A Hesley, G Almschoy,
 D Morris, P Winatney, T Redmond, J
 Cundick, H Parr, C Brinley, C Cooper
 Blaby, R Jones, J Heyler. Lascopay
 replaced for Parr (58min).

Referee: C Thomas (WRL).

Fylde	10
London Scottish	31

BY JACK BAILEY



Troupe: darting run

As time went by, more and more often did Fyldie's well-won first-phase ball belong to Scottish in the second phase. It might all have been different had Fyldie possessed a reliable place-kicker. Two simple early chances were missed, how-

line midway through the second half after a 40-yard run. Parker converted and added a penalty, but it was too little, too late. Two further tries in the second half, one converted, and a penalty had already clinched a Scottish win.

SCORERS: Flyde: Try: Anderson. Conversion: Parker. Penalty goal: Parker. London Scottish: Tries: (2) [2], 5; conversions: Russell (2). [2].

BY DAVID KIRK



for action? No thank you.

Presented with the worst international match record since anyone can remember and a general loss of confidence in the prospects of the team, the New Zealand Rugby Football Union voted to retain Laurie Mains as coach for a fourth year; the reason rests in some indeterminate ether between innate conservatism, bloody-mindedness and petty parochialism.

Significantly, Michael Jones, the Auckland flanker, was missing from both the internationals since they were played on Sundays. His refusal to play on that day remains a problem and will be so next year at the World Cup. The right back-up must be found. Michael Brewer's leadership is valuable to the team and he is a more than capable blind-side flanker but, for New



It is the style, or pattern, of play the All Blacks have pursued over the last few seasons that is at the heart of their relative lack of success. The pace and expansiveness displayed at Murrayfield in the 1993 rout of Scotland disappeared a week later at Twickenham when England's loose forwards, Richards, Clarke and Rodber, were allowed to play their game.

South Africa, and for the whole of the second half against Australia. The difference in these periods was that, instead of sending targets close to the set pieces or the first second-phase, the ball was used as a moving target. Players ran into space, drew defences and moved the ball away. The All Blacks' best chance of winning next year is to develop and sustain this explosive

possession. A question mark remains over the mobility of the front row with Richard Lee, at 34, the greatest concern.

Nevertheless, on balance, the forwards will do the job. They will win their share of set-piece ball and will have the skill and cohesion to retain possession. The more serious concerns lie with the backs, the first of which is selection. Of the back line chosen for the first international at France, only two remained when the team took the field five internationals later against Australia.

No back line can develop fitness and accuracy under pressure if it does not play together regularly. Much more consistency of selection is required and a premium must be placed on passing in the midfield.

This points to Walter Lee or Lee Steenson to partner Frank Burrell and Alama Iqbal.

The stand-off half position remains a problem. There are a host of competent players in the province but none has stepped up to claim the No 10 jersey vacated by Stuart Rux. Stephen Bachop runs and passes like the natural ball player he is. Defence and accurate kicking under pressure are also his limitations. The experienced wing Marc Ellis has run his course without reaching a conclusion.

Whatever the selectors decide next year, they must have the courage to pick class and stick with it through the vagaries of fortune. Only by doing that will they be able to develop the style that will see the World Cup return to New Zealand.

David Kirk led New Zealand to victory in the first World Cup in 1987 and now coaches Wellington.

Next week: England



Laity, the Cardiff centre, enjoys a drab Heineken League match against Swansea that was dominated by the boot

Williams lends finishing touch

THIS was a tough, gruelling match that engaged the interest of those who simply wanted to know which of the clubs would gain the two Heineken League points at the final whistle. Apart from those moderate, non-partisan folk who could just as easily be persuaded to tend to their autumnal tidying up of the allotment, most of those present were, admittedly, most interested in the result.

However, there are those who are as interested in the means as much as the end. They are not averse to aggression and bone-crunching tackles. It is just that they want the occasional delicate touch and a hint of adventure, something to shout about, not scream at in dogged and blind support. Those who wished for this something extra will have returned home perhaps wishing that the afternoon had been spent, after all, on matters horticultural.

In its fashion the match was exciting, I suppose. The outcome, for which we were kept waiting, could have gone either way and it was only Aled Williams's penalty in the 57th minute that made sure of a much-needed victory for a home team that had already lost to Llanelli and Pontypool. Mike Ruddock, the Swansea coach, recognises that the championship of the last two seasons has been won by the team that has lost only two of the term's fixtures. He expects much the same to happen this season.

There was also plenty of to-ing and fro-ing in a frantic sort of way. Both teams came close to scoring another try. But, in the main, both preferred to emphasise the body-checking and tumbling aspects of the game in *maestrous* and rigid repetition. "If progress is impeded, let's boot the ball out of play," seemed to be the other predictable instruction.

Gerald Davies laments the lack of adventure in Swansea's 17-13 triumph over Cardiff

So there were plenty of lineouts. In this respect, it must have proved instructive for those who were in Bucharest last weekend, when Wales were overwhelmed in this phase of play. Wales need someone to halt this decline.

Deryn Jones, all 6ft 10in of him, is in contention for a Wales place at lock against Italy next month. Here he was up against Richard Moriarty, who, while he may not be as sprightly as of yore, knows all the tricks. Cardiff, although they lost the match, ended up winning the lineout count 10-10. Stuart Roy made a big contribution but Jones made more. He invariably gets a

touch on the ball but he is not always so sure of his grasp. Regardless of this uncertainty, he must surely get his chance with Wales soon. He must be allowed to earn his spurs at international level or else Wales can spend their time between now and the five nations' championship simply improving their tackling skills still further.

If the initial indication for Cardiff, who had first use of a stiffish breeze, was that they needed to do something about their handling — their opening two attempts to use the ball among the threequarters were shapeless and sluggish — their try after 11 minutes overturned this impression. Laity made the first breach, then the ball moved swiftly along the line and Hall's pass, with his body leaning inwards to halt the cover defence, was perfectly timed for Ford to cross for the score.

Rayer's conversion from the touchline, as well as his later penalty, gave his side the half-time lead. Swansea hauled themselves back with two penalties from Williams and when Cardiff attempted to strike out of defence with a counter-attack, Adrian Davies's pass to Rayer was intercepted by Simon Davies, who crossed near the posts.

Williams, in missing this relatively easy conversion, seemed to have given the visitors a reprieve, especially when Rayer recovered the lead with another penalty, but Williams, with a surer touch, succeeded with two more.

Worthing add to Leopards' worries

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE club headed by the impresario Harvey Goldsmith at an approximate cost of £1 million over three years is still looking for its first win in the Budweiser Basketball League. Not only that, but the Leopards are still awaiting their American players and coach, Billy Mims, who are staying in Cork until the Department of Employment issues their work permits.

The Leopards' second defeat came against Worthing Bears, who won 91-74. In the absence of the Americans, Henri Abrams and Robert Youngblood, the Bears faced six players who had lined up last season in the colours of Guildford Kings under a temporary coach, Barry Dow, who was widely blamed for the demise of the Surrey club in the summer.

Dow, who is acting as a paid consultant to Goldsmith, is coaching the team — along with Rowan Thompson — until Mims is permitted to work here. "They are all staying in Ireland until the problem is sorted out," Dow said, "but from what I can gather they are working out very hard with a local team."

Unstinting endeavour also seems to be the by-word of the players under Dow's care at the moment. They are obviously professional enough to give their best, none more so than Karl Brown, who hit 34 points against the Bears. His gruelling physical duel with Colin Irish was the highlight of a game that swung Worthing's way only in the closing stages.

Thames Valley Tigers, who succeeded Worthing as champions last season, are doing their utmost to retain the title. Warming up for the tilt on Thursday at Bracknell against Bucklers Bologna in the European championship, the Tigers overwhelmed Sunderland Scorpions 101-76.

Keeping abreast of Tigers with their third successive victory, 86-75 at Derby, are Sheffield Sharks.

Checkpoint Charlies

ALL I needed to bring, said the sports editor, were rubber bands, quite a lot of pencils and something to keep me awake for 24 hours. I was to navigate, he to drive; our starting-time had just come through as 1502 from Ascot.

The route was 700 miles, there were 42 checkpoints and our best-scenario arrival-time was 1506 Ascot the following afternoon... just in time for the six o'clock deadline for my column.

This particular exercise in insomnia was called the London Rally; 240 teams had entered with substantial prizes going to those who most accurately "hit" the checkpoints clearly marked on the map with an X.

Pubs, are they, I asked. The sports editor said they were sheep-pens, hilltops or just places in the middle of nowhere which nevertheless would flush out an official with a clipboard from behind a bush. I asked why he had selected me as his companion. He had thought nightclub owners stayed awake longer.

The entrance fee was £6.10s and the organisers reckoned that teams would need another £7 for petrol and oil and essentials like eye drops, heart stimulants, glucose tablets and strips of velvet ribbon to place over your eyes for a zizz when the other man was driving.

We used the sports editor's TR2 and I brought a roast chicken wrapped in greaseproof paper. At Ascot there was much bustle and revving of engines, and a former policeman who had gone into PR gave each team two bottles marked Mixture A and B; he would like a report on which of these was more helpful in the avoidance of car sickness... hoped it would be B; he gave us half a bottle of whisky as a mark of good faith.

The sports editor had brought an Ordnance Survey map on to which I traced the checkpoints, not then realising that roads in blue were rivers, roads in thin brown lines, contours, and

roads in black, railways. At 10pm it started to rain. We hit a checkpoint, actually hit it, ran over the man with the clipboard and made a dent in the hut in which he had been sitting. "And five minutes late," he murmured, stamping our card.

The car lurched forward, the maps slipped, the chicken shimmied out of its greaseproof housing to leave an aromatic streak across the Fosse Way.

A tyre blew. We had rehearsed this eventuality in Chelsea, done it in three minutes encouraged by the taxi drivers on a nearby

CLEMENT FREUD



Afterthoughts

rank. Now we were in the Welsh mountains, it was dark and took longer.

At about midnight first gear went, then second, then fourth. When we stopped the only way to start was for me to push. Chris to crash into third and me to jump into the car head first through the window. Thus did we reach Brecon Beacon. I tried to eat some chicken but there was insufficient saliva so I drank the eye drops. The sports editor, having punished rally mixture A retired behind a bush. At 6.30 as the sun rose in the east we came to a sign proclaiming Bwlch... which nicely described my feelings.

□ (In 1958 Clement Freud, then a nightclub owner and jobbing sports writer, and Chris Brasher, Olympic gold medal-winner and Observer sports editor, competed in the London Rally; d.n.f.)

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EDUCATION

As the new academic year gets under way, present and former students offer some timely advice on what to expect from university life, what to beware of, what to spend money on — and whether to do something else first

The best first term of your life?

The average sixth-former spends the summer after A levels in a state of anxiety and half-suppressed excitement at the prospect of university. Everyone, from parents to teachers and older friends, has been banging it into your head that these will be the Best Years of Your Life.

But be careful. It's not that your parents and friends are lying when they tell you about the fantastic times they had at college, or even that they are exaggerating (well, not much). It's just that amid their dewy-eyed reminiscing, they find it all too easy to forget the not-so-wonderful times. And the first six weeks of the first term can be the worst time of all.

So what happens when you finally reach the promised land? For many, the reactions range from mild disappointment to serious emotional trauma. I spent most of the first year recovering from the gap which opened up between my expectations and the reality of university living in the first couple of weeks. My experience, as I later discovered, was not uncommon.

Below are some common myths surrounding campus life and a few sage words on what is more likely to be the reality.

1. Making friends is as easy as making pasta. It's a common misconception that everyone at university will be dying to meet you. While there should not be an unfriendly atmosphere, the usual barriers to socialising still apply, some to a greater extent than normal.

Nervousness, for example, will prevent a quarter of your corridor from venturing outside their room for the first week. Most people are more than a little tense at the prospect of living with a bunch of people they have never met before. Don't forget, either, that there is a good chance you will end up living with people you would cross the road to avoid in everyday life. This may take a while to sink in, however; almost everyone in their second year can point to someone, and recall, with a mixture of amazement and embarrassment, that here was their best buddy in the first term.

Don't worry if it takes a while to find friends with whom you feel comfortable. Here are two certainties: about halfway through the first term, you will notice that everyone other than you has loads

of friends, half of whom you don't particularly like. Second, everyone else will be thinking exactly the same thing, only they won't admit it until at least a year later.

2. Everyone believes in free love. Another myth: sex is not nearly so commonplace at university as everyone assumes before they get there. Former students' tales of bed-hopping and drunken orgies are a combination of boasting, wishful thinking and drink-added snatches of memory.

Perhaps — and only perhaps — the student reputation for debauchery was justly earned back in the swinging 1960s and 1970s, but it certainly isn't true any more. In the post-Aids climate of the Nineties, people are a lot more cautious about jumping into bed with the first person to ask what A levels they did.

So be warned: if you're expecting not to get much sleep during the first few weeks, you're probably right. But only because the guy next door plays Pink Floyd until 4am every night.

3. School's out for autumn. If you've been told you won't have anything as mundane as work interfering with your pursuit of the good times, don't believe it. Theoretically, of course, it is perfectly possible to ignore the ostensible reason for going to university for as long as you like. These days, however, such hedonistic attitudes are becoming difficult to maintain. Faculties, under growing pressure to justify their existence and expenditure, are devising increasingly rigorous programmes of study.

The days of dozing through the odd tutorial before sailing through finals are long gone. Workloads are higher, penalties for unproductive ness and non-attendance are tougher, and the hard work starts almost immediately. Of course, you don't want to overdo it either.

4. Everyone gets drunk and awful. By this one is largely true, actually. So, once you have found your friends, got your work under control, discovered where and where not to go in town, turned your room into a home and stopped missing your parents and friends from home, you'll have a great time. Just don't expect it all to happen in the first six weeks.

IAN LESLIE



The perfect student image: new friends, all smiles, no work problems. The reality for freshers can turn out to be the opposite, despite what your parents told you

Student debt can kill your career

BORROWING FROM BANKS

You may not even know that you have been taken to court as a defaulter

Students who default on loans are more at risk of court action than anyone else, according to banking watchdogs. Students are unique, as they run up relatively large debts with none of the securities required of other customers.

Students are offered interest-free overdrafts of up to £1,000, with only the prospect of a job as collateral. If repayment difficulties arise, the lender's only recourse is to the law. "It is the ultimate sanction," says Stuart Cliffe of the National Association of Bank Customers (NABC). "If the student doesn't have any property then the only protection the bank has got is to take a county court action against him, and effectively get a lien on any money he earns in the future."

County court judgments in respect of debt are registered with three national credit reference agencies, and can have damaging consequences to your career prospects and freedom as a consumer.

But the threat of a judgment may be enough to frighten students into approaching their parents to cover debts. Scrutiny of the credit information system suggests that banks can find out if parents are likely to be able to pay, and could allow overdrafts to escalate, confident of being repaid eventually.

More debts will be left alone until after graduation. The National Union of Students says the average 21-year-old leaves college with a debt of £2,500. This is up 13 per cent on last year and the trend is expected to continue as grants remain frozen.

As yet, it is difficult to identify a large group of graduates in trouble. The Student Loan Company only began calling in loans last year; and banks are consolidating student overdrafts over periods of two years after graduation, by which time the customer could be seen as just another adult.

The banks say that they have merely responded to students'

needs by increasing free overdrafts and extending repayment periods. But Stuart Cliffe says: "It promotes this horrifying picture that in three to five years' time a huge number of people are going to owe money to the bank, with no clear opportunity to repay it in the short term."

The SLC say that they have so far prosecuted 1,940 of 1993's graduates. The banks are less forthcoming with figures, claiming that such proceedings are rare.

"We will go to whatever lengths we can to avoid legal action," said a Midland Bank spokesman. "The cost, the embarrassment and the sheer time it takes are just illogical." Most banks now extend student account terms for a year after graduation, and then offer conversion to new, graduate accounts. Stringing out the debt at low interest is hard to resist when the alternative is paying full overdraft rates. The banks are open about the chance this gives them to develop their relationship with the customer. As Barclays puts it: "We want your businesses and their mortgages."

The effect is to cloud any identifiable number of recent graduates in debt. Eddy Weatherill, of the Independent Banking Advisory Service (IBAS), believes that the extension puts distance between customers and their former student status, "glossing over" any graduate debt problem.

In 1993 there were over 1.2 million county court judgments in respect of bad debt. Consumer groups and banks agree on one piece of advice: communicate with the bank. Fear is the biggest problem: "You may well have difficult conversations but it's much less painful in the long term," says the Midland.

But the watchdogs believe banks are prepared to play on that fear and ultimately to use parents as the missing collateral. "At the back of their minds they still think there is a parent involved," says Mr Weatherill. "They think there is somebody close who will have the money, if they press hard enough."

The watchdogs say that formal demands are used to scare students into approaching the family. But long before such tactics become necessary, the bank has an easier route to parental finances. Lloyds student account application form does not ask for parental details, other than the family address. But in the small print, the student assents to the bank consulting a credit reference agency (CRA). By way of explanation, it says: "Lending is subject to assessment of your financial position."

The agencies collect and supply personal information considered relevant to decisions by lenders to grant credit. The high street banks use one or all of the big three: Infocoll, Equifax and CCN. Most 18-year-olds will not have borrowed money before. But consumer credit files include data on the individual and on anyone living with them. Infocoll says: "Lenders have produced statistical evidence which confirms that adverse financial information on family groups or other members of the same household does have a bearing upon credit-worthiness."

The bank will verify that a student lives at the address declared on the application form. They will also be able to check the financial record of parents, siblings and anyone else living there.

If you do default on your borrowing, says the MAA, the ensuing county court judgment can happen automatically and without your knowledge. Many students move away from college soon after graduation. The formal demand from the branch arrives unanswered. Unless the student has returned to the family home, no notification will reach him.

After judgment the court places defaulters' names on the Credit Default Register, which jeopardises listed people's career prospects in finance, law, the armed services, the police, the civil service and medicine. It also severely reduces the likelihood of getting credit, including mortgages, in the future.

PATRICK NICHOLSON

Rule one: keep out of danger

Safety ranks low as a priority when UCAS forms are filled in. But as freshers' weeks loom it has a way of creeping up the worry agenda. This is especially so when students going away for the first time are heading for inner-city universities in postcodes blacklisted by insurance companies.

In fact there are risks wherever you go, as a recent survey at Oxford's two universities demonstrated. Seven per cent of the 2,217 female students who responded to a questionnaire said they had been victims of a legally notifiable sexual offence during their time at college.

"College authorities may be quite guarded about student safety statistics, partly because they may not monitor it properly," says a National Union of Students spokeswoman. "Also a bad showing would not be a good selling point."

Isolated campuses are a particular concern. Students unions try to see that there is adequate lighting and late-night minibuses. Colleges should cut back excessive foliage and avoid time-labelling lectures after dark.

The golden rules are: travel in packs, don't let strangers into your room and keep clear of the drugs scene. Many universities either sell attack alarms at a discount, give them away or hire them out. Otherwise, high street shops such as Boots sell them at under £4 to about £10.

Maria Priestley, aged 20, is starting her third year at Newcastle University studying food marketing. "I always stay in a group and when out try not to look different, as that can cause resentment," she says. "I wouldn't retell, even if someone threw stones, and I avoid known trouble spots."

Catherine Kehoe, 20, is going into her second year studying history of art at Sussex University (Brighton). She says she has heard of a few serious violent incidents on the campus in the past few years but much more rare are cases of theft, particularly in the first few weeks. Then thieves are on the lookout for "fresh-faced students who have just had their grant cheque or allowance paid in, taking out big amounts of money from a cashpoint in the street. You should either withdraw a small amount or go inside".

Universities often have some bank and building society branches on campus. It is worth checking which they are before opening an account for grant and allowance cheques.

Many universities advise against bringing valuables onto campus and warn students to lock their rooms even when just going out for a few minutes. Insurance companies normally won't pay up where there is no forced entry.

Banks and building societies fall over themselves offering student insurance schemes but

it is worth finding out whether you are covered by the hall of residence, some of which have block policies. Royal Insurance and NFU are among insurers that may cover the contents of students' college rooms for fire and theft for no extra premium. Computers and other more valuable items should be mentioned individually and may cost extra. See that bicycles have D-type cycle lock and chain and are posted by either the police or a local retailer.

Student's cards can also usually be covered under parents' card protection schemes. CPP says "it



Looking for a flat? Make sure the area has good street lighting

won't cost extra as long as they stay on the parents' statement."

Most universities have their own health service but these may only provide for emergencies on campus and jobs on foreign travel. Students should check which GPs are available in the area: lists are carried at accommodation offices, local health authorities, chemists and post offices. Find out whether you need to register, and keep handy a note of their telephone number and address for an emergency.

Finally, it is worth remembering

that it is easier than it might seem for a student to be cast in the role of a wrongdoer. Avoid situations that could lead to charges of harassment. Also remember that you could find yourself in trouble if you infringe Intellectual Property Rights. University data freely available to students is university property and cannot be traded. Restrictions can apply even to computer software and videos made using university facilities.

ANTHEA SAXON

A bridge between school and university

The idea of a break between studies has taken firm hold over the past decade. Once dismissed as a fad, the so-called "gap year" is now a popular fixture of British higher education.

As 270,000 students embark on university careers this week, a record number of their peers — more than 15,000 — are already four months into their year off. Some have done so at the bidding of university tutors in vocational subjects such as law or engineering who actively encourage applicants to take time to experience life first-hand in a solicitor's office or design department. Many tutors in other subjects simply consider those who have had a year out to be more mature and, hence, better students.

Yet "gappers" who take full-time jobs should beware: the sudden drop in disposable income makes the average first-year hit the ground with a hard bump. Most gappers who are relatively free at university, it is only a sense of freedom. When, in telephone calls home, a student admits to purchasing a small luxury, the admission will be followed by some sort of economic chastisement.

I enjoyed my own gap year immensely, but like many others found the readjustment difficult at first. A spokeswoman for the National Union of Students, who had a year out herself, said that although problems of readjustment were inevitable, people usually settled down quickly and got back into the swing. Very few students drop out after a gap year just for lack of excitement. But the difficulties of returning to "humdrum England" after exotic trips abroad do make students question the value of three years' study, particularly in a depressed job market where some graduates have to settle for menial jobs where their qualifications are irrelevant.

Helen Barron, a final-year English undergraduate at Oxford University, took the decision to take a

year out during her last year at sixth-form. Like many, she felt that she needed a rest between A levels and college. She deferred entry and spent the first six months of her gap year working in a local bookshop saving enough money to afford to go to Greece. Eventually, she flew out and worked in a restaurant near Salonika, using her spare time to learn the language.

On her return, with a year in the real world under her belt, Helen found it hard to readjust. She views her first two years at Oxford with cynical eyes: "Even though there were times in Greece when I felt lonely and fed up with the whole thing, I always appreciated the independence that it brought me and the fact that I didn't have to answer to anyone. There was also the excitement and vibrancy that only Greece could evoke."

But Helen found that some of the arguments often cited against taking a gap year were soundly based: "As soon as I arrived at college, you could spot those that hadn't had a year out a mile off. After a couple of days everyone stopped being polite and everything became intense. They became embroiled in this school-social life."

"I had always known that academically the first year would be hard. But the question of 'How on earth do I write a university English essay?' was complicated by the fact that there were times in my first term when I couldn't even write a good school essay. Eventually, I found that I got back on the right track again, but always at the back of your mind is that lingering doubt that you have sacrificed your freedom for three years of hard slog."

"The worst thing of all was that, in my first few months at least, I became very judgmental about everyone and the way everything was set up at university. I sometimes feel that it was wrong to take a year out. It makes you view those who haven't had a gap year in a less than charitable light."

TAKING A GAP YEAR



By Alistair Hopkins

JOIN US ON the internet with The Times on-line education service. Teachers, students and parents have already started using the new system, which is available through Delphi UK, one of the newspaper's associated companies. Readers all over the world will be able to call up the

On-line education

articles on this page and enter an electronic debate on these subjects, or any others in the education sphere. Has the perennial student accommodation crisis receded, for example? Do the

advantages of a gap year outweigh the disadvantages?

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COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

Forte to give taste of Savoy's new menu

FORTE: Further details of the hotel and catering group's plans for The Savoy, after making closer links this month, are likely to emerge on Thursday when the company, headed by Rocco Forte, publishes its half-year figures.

Simon Johnson, at BZW, the broker, expects interim pre-tax profits to reach £55 million (£37 million) and a maintained 2.75p interim dividend. Forecasts are for £52 million to £55 million.

BZW says London trading has been excellent, with occupancy 8 points up and room rate achieved up 6 per cent in the six months. Provincial occupancy is up 6 per cent, but demand has not yet risen enough to drive room rates ahead as well as London, and they could be down 2 per cent.

INCHCAPE: The international motors, marketing and services group gave warning at its annual meeting this year that first-half profits were likely to be down, so analysts await reassurance today that longer-term profits will pick up. The group suffered from the stronger yen, the Japanese recession, the downturn in continental European motor markets and austerity moves in China. First-half pre-tax profits are expected to slip to £120 million (£130 million), says UBS. A 6p (5.8p) interim dividend is predicted. Forecasts are £115 million to £120 million.

REDROW GROUP: The house-builder, which came to the mar-

ket in May, is today expected to report final pre-tax profits of £21 million (£31.1 million), according to Scott Fulton, at Smith New Court. A dividend of 2.7p to 3.5p is predicted. Forecasts range from £20 million to £23 million.

HAMMERSON: The property group that owns the Brent Cross Shopping Centre is today expected to report a jump in interim pre-tax profits to £22.5 million (£14.5 million), says UBS. Its forecast 55 per cent advance in "clean" pre-tax profits includes

MANCHESTER UNITED: The Premier League champions unveil results on Friday that are expected to raise cheers among its shareholders. Smith New Court, the broker, is looking for final pre-tax profits of £9.7 million (£4.2 million) and an increased dividend of 15.5p (13.5p). Forecasts range from £6.3 million to £9.7 million.

the benefit of the £199 million rights issue in July 1993, and an acquisition of a portfolio of properties earlier this year from PostTel for £143 million, all but £25 million of which was met from a new share issue.

SEARS: The retailing group, with interests from the Selfridges department store in central

London to shoe shops and women's fashion stores, is expected to report solid profit growth at the interim stage tomorrow. Julie Ramshaw, of Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, is looking for first-half pre-tax profits of £44 million (£31 million). An interim dividend of 1.1p (1p) is predicted. Forecasts range from £43 million to £46 million.

HOUSE OF FRASER: The department store group that floated this year will unveil its first set of results as a listed company tomorrow, though the seasonally-quiet interim will tell little about the full-year outcome. Morgan Stanley has pencilled in first-half pre-tax profits of £3.5 million and a maiden interim dividend of 2.4p, while full-year profits are expected to approach £48 million.

TARMAC: The construction, quarrying and housebuilding group should provide further evidence of the resurgent housing market. NatWest Securities expects first-half pre-tax profits, also due tomorrow, to advance to £21 million (£2.5 million), with a maintained interim dividend of 3p predicted. Forecasts are in a tight range between £21 million and £22 million.

BEAZER HOMES: The housebuilder will provide evidence on Wednesday of the state of the housing market. The group, floated from Hanson, will



Rocco Forte, chairman of the hotels group, now has much closer links with the Savoy

reveal its first full-year results since coming to the market. Forecasts vary widely, but James Capel, the broker, is seeking profits of £31 million (£37.8 million). The first dividend is expected to amount to 5.4p.

UNICHEM: Also on Wednesday, the pharmaceuticals distributor and chemists' retailing group is expected to report first-half pre-tax profits ahead to £20.8 million (£18 million), says UBS.

An interim dividend of 2.5p (2.2p) is predicted.

REDLAND: The building materials group is expected to report a solid first-half performance on Thursday, helped by its geographically diversified range of markets and activities.

The current year is thought to have started well for Redland, with UK margins ahead thanks to a combination of price increases and cost savings. High

levels of construction activity should ensure Germany remains strong, with its strong rise in housebuilding showing no signs of slackening and sales of concrete roof tiles likely to grow.

Robert Donald, at NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for Redland's interim pre-tax profits to advance to £130 million, against £108 million last time. A maintained interim dividend of 8.3p is predicted. Forecasts range from £130 million to £135 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Fed decision on rates too close to call

International bond markets are braced for a week that is short on new economic statistics, but long on crucial policy meetings.

While there will be minor flutters of nerves today when the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England meet for their monthly monetary meeting, nobody seriously expects any more interest rate moves. Base rates were increased on September 12, and the minutes of the meeting at the end of July made it fairly clear that Eddie George had pushed for — and got — a large enough rise to be able to pause for a while.

Far more crucial for markets will be the meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) tomorrow and Wednesday amid genuine speculation that the Federal Reserve may again tighten policy. Although many Fed watchers expect any decision to be put off until perhaps mid-November, the strong economic figures emerging from America suggest that this could be a close call.

Bond markets lurched into another down-leg of their correction since February on news of higher than expected growth in industrial production, a high figure for capacity usage by industry, and a sharp widening of the US trade deficit. The Fed signalled the last of five rate rises this year on August 16, immediately after the FOMC meeting ended. If another rate rise is decided, current Fed practice suggests that the markets will be told late on Wednesday. The second day of the FOMC coincides with the latest US durable goods orders figures.

Another focus for markets is Thursday's Bundesbank council meeting. There is little expectation of any change in official German interest rates, despite last week's better than expected news on August's M3 money supply. Economists believe that the German central bank is likely to put monetary policy decisions on hold until it has seen the results of October's federal elections — and the reaction of the market.

Rounding off a week dominated by uncertainty about the international outlook and which, because it focuses so heavily on interest rate policy, is likely to be a difficult one for bond markets to navigate, is the deadline on Friday for the bilateral US-Japanese trade talks. By September 30, Japan has to agree to open up its markets to US goods in the three sensitive areas of government procurement, autos and insurance. If it fails, it will face sanctions under US trade laws.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

Sunday Times: Buy: Tarmac, HTV, Trinity Hides (at 35p).
Sunday Telegraph: Buy: Bank of Scotland, Klen-e-e, Hadleigh, Observer. Buy: Travis Perkins, Hold: RMC, Redland.
Independent on Sunday: Buy: Edinburgh Fund Managers, MFI Furniture, B&M Group, Houlder Headline. Sell: RTZ, and Thames Water.
Mail on Sunday: Buy: Magnolia Group, Antofagasta.

DAY-BY-DAY RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY
Interims: Abbott Mead Vickers, J Bilton, Brent Walker, Clarke Nickolls, Culver Hidge, HTV Gp, Inchcape, William Jacks, Klen-e-e, S Lyle, Metatrax, Refuge Gp, Schroder Spill Fund, T&S Stores, United Inds, Universal Ceramic. Final: Allied London Props, Baring Emerging Europe, Close Bros, Community Hospitals, Cornwell Parker, Enterprise Computer, Northern Leisure, Redrow Group. Statistics: Capital expenditure (Q2 revised), stocks and work in progress (Q2 revised), Treasury monthly monetary report.
TOMORROW
Interims: Alexon Gp, Baltic, Britton Gp, Bridon

Est, Fortune Oil, House of Fraser, Huntleigh Tech, Intermediate Capital Gp, JBA Holdings, Sears, William Sindell, Tarmac, Transpec, Worsum, Yule Catto. Final: Burn Stewart Distillers, China & Eastern Int, Dorling Kindersley, Goodhead Gp, James Halcroft, KCS Lloyd's Int Tr, A&L Muddow, My Kinda Town, Paramount, Thornton Int Management.
WEDNESDAY
Interims: Development Securities, Erith, Global Gp, Greensore Gp, Quality Software Prod, Jefferson Smurfit Gp, Radiotrust, UniChem. Final: Advest Gp, Balfour Japan, Beazer Homes, DCS Gp, Frogmore Estates, MR Data Management, Quayle Munro, Regent Inns,

FW Thorpe. Statistics: Major British banking groups' mortgage lending (August), farm land prices (Q2).
THURSDAY
Interims: Blockdays, Brightsons Props, Horace Carlson, Hestach, Forta, French Connection, Garton Eng, Hefel Bar, Hopkings Gp, Kinloch Gp, Union Park, MTL Instruments, New City & Commercial Int Tr, Redland, Ruberoid, Sherwood Computer Services, Speciality Shops, Stylo, Trinity Hidge, Tui-gw, Oit, Waterford Foods. Final: B&Bcom, Brackenbridge, Butte Mining, Churchbury East, European Leisure, Foreign & Colonial US Smaller Cos, Intereurope Tech, SWP Gp, Union Square.

Statistics: New earnings survey 1994 part A: streamlined and summary analysis: description of the survey, energy trends (July), new vehicle registrations (July).
FRIDAY
Interims: Abstract European Index, Ash & Lacy, Atlas Converting Equipment, Carnalis, Darby Gp, James Fisher, Hi-Tec Sports, Madhwaran Fund, New Guernsey Securities, Norfolk, Tanjong, TDS Circuits. Final: Anglesey Mining, Chesterton Ind, Hiding Estate, Manchester United, Walsman Partnership. Statistics: Profitability of UK companies (1993), economic trends (September), monthly digest of statistics (September).



THE NEW WAY TO NORWAY

There is now a New Way to Norway — direct with

Braathens, from Gatwick to Oslo and Bergen.

Braathens is the Norwegian Way, with daily scheduled flights from Gatwick to Oslo.

Their new service, direct from Gatwick to Bergen — six days a week — commences on 30th October.

The Braathens way introduces a range of new benefits for the business and the leisure traveller.

Braathens Lite is a new, low, fully flexible, fully refundable return fare; now available for flights from Gatwick to Norway.

Our 'One Class' service offers, to every passenger, the highest levels of Norwegian hospitality, including

Norwegian food, free drinks and newspapers.

The BRA Card extends our 'frequent flier' programme to the UK, entitling you to benefits on flights and in hotels in the UK and Norway.

And our unique Visit Norway Pass offers excellent value on Braathens' internal flights, to 14 destinations throughout Norway.

Since 1991, Braathens has carried more than 200,000 passengers from Newcastle to Oslo, Stavanger and Bergen.

In all, we now operate 27 weekly flights to Norway from the UK; and 240 daily departures throughout Norway. Yet we are still the most reliable airline,



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The reliable way to Norway's best on time record.



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The rewarding way for benefits on flights and hotels in the UK and Norway.

This year, many of my friends are reaching 50. One or two, riding high in affluence and achievement, are holding good parties. But their guests reveal a different story. For many more, the half century is bringing an end to careers they thought would go on a lot longer and, they hoped, further. To their amazement, they are cast as the fat being shed in the latest corporate diet plan. Some are victims of multinational mass cuts of middle-rank executives, where age is often the first parameter fed into the search programme. Professionals, sidelined from the fee-earning mainstream to make way for young Turks, find they are an embarrassment when 1980s overheads have to be cut. A generation of nearly-men — and it is usually men — are falling off the corporate pyramid.

That has long happened, not least to soldiers and sailors. Oil caters for comfy retirement at fifty. But the process is now more intense, more widespread and happens at an earlier age. It is part of a dark paradox curbing economic progress. Pensioners are living longer as health standards improve. Statistics point trends that frighten policymakers with images of ever fewer working people supporting each retired person. One has this "support ratio" falling from 3.4 in 1990 to 2.8 early in the next century and eventually to 2.6. Life might turn out different. A quick rise in the birth rate would do wonders. But

Costly lament of Britain's discarded 50-somethings

The ageing population is seen as the sword of Damocles over public finances. As a start, state pension provision is to be phased down and women's pensions put off until 65.

The post-fifty age group should play the biggest part in financing the blessing of longer life. They traditionally had higher incomes and grown up children, allowing maximum net contributions to the Exchequer. Yet as life expectancy rises, working lives are being involuntarily shortened.

Hundreds of thousands of older workers lost manufacturing jobs in the early 1980s slump and never found work again. Since then, the trend has continued against them. In the past decade, total employment has risen by 1.4 million. But employment of men aged 50-64 has tumbled by a further 350,000, or 11 per cent. Women have done their bit to compensate. Employment of women aged 50-59 has risen 140,000 to 1.8 million, but half these jobs are part-time, often low-paid. Instead of contributing more, fifty-somethings are becoming the under-employed.

There is one technical reason. Over-50s can cost more to hire, thanks to the structure of company



GRAHAM SEAL

pensions. In final-salary schemes, still the norm in big business, under-35s subsidise their elders — most of all the directors. This scarcely matters in lifetime employment, for which the schemes were designed. But since that has made way for a culture of mobility, this actuarial nicety has rigged the labour market against older workers. Higher pension costs to hire a 50-year-old on the same pay as a younger worker reinforce prejudice, explaining the puzzled frustration of the older unemployed. Even if job losses are spread evenly, fewer over-50s will find comparable new full-time work. The faster jobs turn

over, the faster employment among older men will fall. But the culture change goes far beyond mobility. On average, much younger people get to run big organisations, which in testing times, when they must adapt fast, the physical vigour, uncluttered minds and unswayed records of youth are deemed more vital than the wisdom and judgment that should spring from experience.

Politics sets the tone, though more in image than substance. John Major's youth was once reckoned his key virtue, because he lacked a past. At 41, Tony Blair, Labour's counter, actually became leader at the same age as Neil Kinnock, but has less scope to make enemies. When Mr Major's position looked dodgy, Tories soon talked of skipping another generation.

With the odd exception, prime ministers are even becoming younger in Japan, where the old ICI tradition of picking the boss from the pre-retirement generation ran strongest. No candidate of cardinals would now pick a septuagenarian Pope. No matter that the Vatican's last veteran provided the most reform-

ist for centuries. No matter that Sir Ron Dearing, aged 64, proved more resilient and in touch with schools than John Patten, then aged 48.

In business, appointing a youthful chief executive is becoming de rigueur. No bad thing perhaps, except for other senior managers. Those who reach the top fast tend to think that older executives cannot be much good or must have run out of steam. Management pyramids are flattened to squeeze them out. Their days are numbered. And that message filters down the firm. Some top jobs are designed to need youthful stamina. Financial market executives may work a 14-hour day to span the time zones, guaranteeing a William Pitt burnout unless they cash in their chips early.

Top executives can factor in their own exit: the widely expensive early retirement package. And they have invented for themselves a lucrative afterlife in the non-executive director cult, which lets them play Willie Whitelaw to a like soul. For those stranded when the music stops, as for humbler salaried managers and craftsmen, the package is not gift-wrapped. Those well-provided can fill the void in voluntary work left by non-working wives of management calibre. More often it is the corner shop, part-time consultancy or skivvying. Some love it, but the economy still suffers.

Dispossessed fifty-somethings will eventually seek revenge for their shattered dreams. But electing Mr Blair will not change this culture.

Joanna Pitman finds a picture in Japan of what lies ahead for Britain

Visions of the cabled future

At first sight, Britain does not give the impression of being a hub of one of the most advanced telecommunications and digital information and entertainment systems in the world. Stop-over visitors from more technologically developed societies such as urban North America and Japan, marvel at the bad communications lines, the paucity of digital information services, the lack of screen information and entertainment in public places and the widespread ignorance about the meaning and potential of multi-media.

Yet, Britain, according to cable industry specialists, is roaring ahead of its European neighbours as the information superhighway snakes its way irreversibly closer to our doors. Take a glimpse into the not so distant future to the kind of "advanced information society" in which we will soon be living. The slogan, although none too catchy, was invented to describe modern-day Japan.

From almost anywhere you might choose to stand in urban Japan, you can always see a television or flickering information screen of some sort. Television sets are suspended from the walls in snack bars, built into the tables in sushi bars, fitted into the backs of cabs and set up in banks, bookshops and museum entrance halls to entertain queuing customers. Digital information giving news headlines, share prices and travel bargains flicker across screens in the carriages of bullet trains, and giant televisions pump information, advertising and entertainment for 24 hours a day to passers-by outside mainline stations and in shopping districts.

In Tokyo, the seven available broadcast channels transmit 140 hours of programmes a day, and cable and satellite channels together provide four

times that amount. No wonder Britain looks backward to seasoned information superhighway travellers from Japan. Yet, since 1991, when the Broadcasting Act created a new television regulatory authority in the Independent Television Commission, and franchised cable companies began to build the first cable network and link up homes, the proportion of the country now cabled up and the number of subscribers have grown at a furious pace.

According to the ITC, 707,000 households were connected to broad band cable systems at the beginning of July this year, a 50 per cent increase on the total recorded a year earlier. Networks have been set up in most large urban centres and are penetrating small towns and more rural areas. Availability is increasing at a rate of 20 per cent every six months, and 3.4 million homes have the potential to subscribe to cable entertainment services as well as telecommunications.

The telecommunications application is an important one for Britain: the UK regulatory framework is the only one in the world so far to encourage convergence by giving cable operators the right to provide both telecommunication services and cable television. Seamus Collins, of the Cable Systems Development Company, said: "The rate of telephone expansion is now outpacing the expansion in the area of straight entertainment. This is an important market for us because initially most subscribers were in the middle and lower income demographic groups, people who would subscribe to watch film or sport channels. But now cable operators' marketing teams are able to concentrate more on higher income households that make more telephone calls, local and long distance. They can sell subscriptions on the strength of the telecommunications deals."



Paving the way: Britain, well behind Japan, is stepping up the pace on cabling

Mr Collins said the industry estimates that seven million homes will be linked up by 2000.

Nine main operators dominate Britain's cable industry, all of them North American in origin. "Britain has an unusually forward-thinking regulatory system which allows us to combine cable entertainment and telephone services. 'Britain is an important market for us because it allows us to explore and learn about the entertainment business,'" Mr Bond said.

providing both," said Simon Bond of Nynex, one of seven "Baby Bells" created when AT&T was split up into regional companies in 1984.

Nynex provides voice data telephone and mobile services across America, but is unable, owing to regulatory restrictions, to provide television entertainment services. "Britain is an important market for us because it allows us to explore and learn about the entertainment business," Mr Bond said.

Some 500,000 cable telephone lines have been installed, according to ITC statistics. Most operators offer customers free local calls to other network subscribers during off-peak times, and provide cheap-rate long-distance calls routed along the most economical networks via their own North American services.

Videotron, a cable operator owned jointly by the Canadian broadcast services company, Le Group Videotron, and a

joint venture between Cable and Wireless and Bell Canada, is one of the nine operating in Britain and has the franchises covering most of Greater London. In February, it introduced free local calls to other subscribers between 7pm and 7am and on weekends and bank holidays, which resulted in 1.25 million free calls being made in six months.

The company has also introduced interactive technology, allowing customers to participate in or customise what they view. Subscribers watching the World Cup, for example, could select an extra camera angle, tap an instant replay facility and call up statistical information on players.

The industry as a whole has spent an estimated £10 billion to date over eight years. Nynex, for example, is spending about 70 per cent of its total investment on the civil engineering required for installing some £2 billion — to link up 2.5 million British homes.

The 10 to 15 per cent of the country's homes still to be covered by cable franchises may end up being connected not by underground cables, but by a new kind of microwave delivery yet to be granted licensing status by the ITC.

"This will probably be the preferred delivery method of the future. It is a relatively simple short distance point-to-point type of delivery and will avoid the complications of having to dig up and lay cables," Mr Collins said.

It may not be long then before we become as information absorbent as the Japanese, constantly and unashamedly monitoring television screens as we make our way to work on the train, in the bus, once we get to work and as we munch our lunchtime sandwiches. An intrusion for some, but if Japan is a vision of our televisual future, there is going to be no escaping it.

Right under their noses

THE august American Chamber of Commerce (UK), born 78 years ago and still going strong with a current membership of 1,200, has just elected its 26th president — and he is British! Sir Brian Gosnell, deputy senior partner of Healey & Baker, the property specialist, a director of Brent Walker and chairman of Roux Restaurants, takes over at the Chamber from Edward J. Sireator, former US Ambassador to the OECD, and says he too was surprised when the sub-committee charged with finding a new president — and of which he was a member — told him "the right man has been found — You." He understood the brief was to find an American, a head of a big US corporation, who was influential, and who had clout on Capitol Hill. "My ego persuaded me to accept," Sir Brian says. Brian Robert Brunck, the Chamber's director general, says Sir Brian was the "right chap," and that there is no culture shock in the chamber that he is British. But some things never change. The chamber has never had a woman president.

Zeitgeist

KLEINWORT Benson dreamt up a most suitable advertisement for the programme which accompanied



the recent unveiling of a statue of Mozart in Pimlico by Princess Margaret. Quips such as "orchestrating performance in the classical tradition" complemented a caricature of the Hoffung-style clarinetist playing from a music stand, and the music was entitled Eine Kleinwort Benson with Bensonmusik. Who said merchant bankers had no sense of humour?

FROM Yorkton Securities, in Canada, quoting Dean William Inge, come these contributions to the population debate: "The command 'Be fruitful and multiply' was promulgated, according to our authorities, when the world population consisted of two persons." And: "Those in favour of birth control have already been born."

COLIN CAMPBELL

Inflation outlook remains fine

THE gilts market has had more chances to rally this year than Frank Sinatra has had comebacks. All along, it has been swamped by the general world gloom about bonds. To a substantial degree, this gloom remains something of a puzzle, but if there is one factor that can at least be offered as both a rationalisation of the market's behaviour and a plausible justification for the current level of yields, it is the pace of economic recovery.

At the beginning of the year, there were considerable doubts about the United States economy, and much pessimism about most of Europe, combined with only a limited appreciation of the strength of dynamic Asia. As the year has unfolded, however, the strength of the world economy has become clearer. And this has provided the excuse for the bond bears to come out of the woodwork.

In part, this bear case rests on concern about real interest rates being driven up by increased demand for capital (which may or may not be justified), but most of it rests on the view that stronger growth must mean higher

inflation, if not now, then next year or beyond. Moreover, this was apparently the principle on which the British authorities based their decision to raise interest rates on September 12.

Yet there is a revealing contrast between the market's (and the authorities') concerns looking forward, and the nature of their forecast errors looking backwards. As everyone knows, inflation has turned out far lower than almost everyone

expected. This is not because the economy turned out to be weaker than people expected. On the contrary, it turned out to be much stronger. Inflation has continued to fall as the economy has picked up. Accordingly, the undershooting of inflation forecasts was all the more remarkable.

What had happened was a marked improvement in the relationship between the level of output (and its rate of

growth) and inflation. Yet when the markets (and the authorities) now reflect on the inflationary risks posed by future economic growth, this lesson seems to be forgotten. Admittedly, the current level of inflation is lower, but the underlying assumption still seems to be that there is some fixed level of capacity utilisation at which inflation starts to pick up.

In reality, though, the limit to capacity is not a fixed point at all, but rather a wide

continuum; and inflation can start at widely differing points on that continuum. In the 1970s, for instance, it began when most observers thought that there was still ample spare capacity available — and it continued amid apparently high levels of unemployment and unused plant. This even gave rise to a new word: stagflation.

The evidence suggests that there has been a fundamental shift in the factors governing inflation. There has been a

collapse of inflationary expectations and an intensification of competition in both labour and product markets. Everywhere, the accent is on the need to keep costs and prices down to maintain and increase volumes, or even to ensure survival.

These changes will result not only in favourable inflation surprises (as over the last two years), but also, in favourable surprises over the link between utilisation of capacity and inflation. In short, inflation should pick up at much higher levels of capacity utilisation than previously. Think of it, if you like, as the reverse of the 1970s experience. Then, even high inflation could be in the presence of spare capacity; now they will be surprised at how low it will be as the economy apparently reaches "full capacity."

With yields of about 9 per cent, you may well argue that all of this suggests that gilts (and other bonds) are cheap. They are. But old habits die hard. Markets want to see before believing.

ROGER BOOTLE
Chief Economist
HSBC Greenwell

A clue to her literary fate

The Wide Sargasso Sea. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

If you know nothing about Jean Rhys's novel from which *Ruthless* is adapted, you won't think me for revealing the literary destiny of its central character, Antoinette Cosway (played tonight by Indira Ove). The only clue I propose to give you are that she is a young Creole living in Jamaica, born of English parents, and married to an Englishman (Adam Godley) whose first name is Edward. Another clue, then no more. She shows incipient signs of insanity, and can become violent when her mixed-blood is mentioned slightly. And what if you do know your *Wide Sargasso Sea*? Then you will once again be reminded how brilliantly Rhys, writing in the mid-20th century, prefigured a masterpiece of fiction written in the mid-19th.

Music-Hall Memories. Radio 3, 9.30pm.

Benny Green's history of the British music-hall is the juicy fruit of much digging in the theatre files. He discovered that G.B.S. wrote about Lucie Collins' "The Raggy-Baggy-de-ay" with as much analytical precision as he expended on Brahms and Mendelssohn. Kipling derived his "Barrack Room Ballads" rhythms from the halls. Max Beerholm, the shy caricaturist, worshipped Cissie Loftus (the "mimetic marvel"), with a nice turn of phrase, calls "the abyss of his diffidence". It was a love that turned to hate — and Green is just the man to tell us why. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 93.0 MHz. 6.00am: Simon Mayo, featuring TBA's guitarist Mike Mills as God of the Day 12.00pm: Emma: Freud, Tel: 1230-124999. 2.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 3.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 4.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 5.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 6.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life.

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 88.0 MHz. 6.00am: Sarah Kennedy. 6.30am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 1.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 2.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 3.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 4.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 5.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 6.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life.

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am: Morning Reports. 6.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 1.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 2.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 3.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 4.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 5.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 6.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life.

RADIO 3

6.30am: Open University: Science. 7.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 1.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 2.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 3.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 4.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 5.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 6.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life.

RADIO 4

5.55am: Shipping Forecast. 6.00am: News Briefing. 6.30am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 1.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 2.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 3.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 4.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 5.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 6.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life.

RADIO 5

5.00am: Shipping Forecast. 6.00am: News Briefing. 6.30am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 1.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 2.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 3.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 4.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 5.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 6.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 7.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 8.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 9.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 10.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 11.00pm: The 1994: A Day in the Life. 12.00am: The 1994: A Day in the Life.

Lost in Brighton, dropping the lame donkey

Jilly Golden's Great Antiques Hunt came to Brighton yesterday (BBC1). For proud Brighton residents such as myself it was fun to watch, especially when the eager Red Team, sent to scour the Lanes for Art Deco figurines, ran straight through the designated district and out the other end, like a bad case of furniture polish. It was hilarious. "They're crossing North Street now," we locals laughed, smugly. "A common mistake they are heading for the North Laine," as with the rest of the series, the show is both entertaining and informative, but visiting Brighton gave it an extra spin. I mean, what if this lovely antique stuff was stolen? One couldn't help thinking of viewers nationwide clutching each other in sudden alarm and saying: "Good lord, darling, that's ours, isn't it?"

Materialism was all over the schedules this weekend, as though someone upstairs (in the executive,

rather than the religious sense) were making a last-ditch attempt to teach us relative values. In *Casualty* (BBC1), the promising new deadlocked nurse Jude (Lisa Coleman) shockingly cut right through the beautiful leather trousers of a comatose biker, and said she couldn't believe she'd done it. Nor could I. Meanwhile Mike, Heavy Consultant, on a day off, sat in his office under the light of an Anglepoise, sticking petrol tokens on a card. Poor Mike. Even if he took up enough tokens for a deep fat fryer, poor Mike.

And, as it went on, in *The Longest Walk* (BBC2) on Friday, the emotionally volatile Fiona Campbell got touchy and upset about the loss of her lame donkey (which chewed grass, unmoved), and sulkily toiled off northwards through Spain with an enormous back-pack, the size of another person, having pragmatically abandoned more than half her

precious stuff beside a stone wall. Meanwhile on Saturday, in the second of the clever autobiographical series *The Director's Place* (BBC2), American director Susan Seidelman was both touched and appalled by the material certainties of her 1960s all-American childhood, interspersing relevant bits from her films. In *She-Devil*, interestingly, Roseanne Barr deliberately booby-trapped her kitchen appliances, and when it all went boom, she laughed.

All of which leads to Saturday's *White Goods* (TV), a neat, absorbing and well-acted parable by Al Hunter Ashton, which culminated in a sinister exhilarating fireball of washing machines and microwaves. Ian McShane and Lenny Henry played Ian and Charlie, ordinary bloke next-door neighbours drawn by fate into a tacky TV snooker show, where between them (Char-



Lynne Truss

lie's general knowledge and Ian's snookering) they win such a huge number of labour-saving devices that the National Grid is placed on alert. But by the time the stuff arrives by lorry, the boys have fallen out, like thieves. Remember *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, the way men suspect and bicker and kill each other? It was a bit like that, only with a lot more 13-amp plugs.

But cleverly, *White Goods* was not just about simple snooker. Behind the scenes at the snooker show, a policy decision is made: Charlie must win, because he's black. Charlie realises the game is rigged, and is insulted. But his mistake is to tell Ian his suspicions, because Ian's fragile machismo requires him to have won the game fair and square. Ian wants a fight; Charlie won't be drawn; their wives decide they hate each other.

So the animosity is focused on the white goods, snatched and counter-snatched until Ian (an explosives expert) actually wires up the stuff in his garage so that nobody can touch it.

After the believable spoof TV show *Magic Moments* in Victoria Wood's *Pat and Margaret* the other week, *Snooker Challenge* looked several degrees too phoney and too serious. But it didn't spoil the story. McShane and Henry,

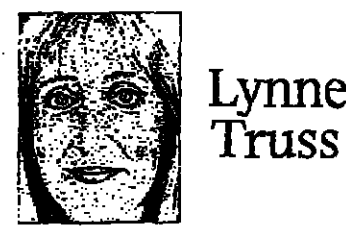
both accustomed to playing rogues and twinkles, responded to the complexities of these darker characters: and meanwhile the sex scene on the snooker table (Ian with a PR lady, urgently potting the reds) will remain vivid in the head for a very long time. How disappointing to read that a special false top was laid over the baize to protect it. Damn this damn materialism.

Last night's *Screen One* (BBC1) was awful. Called *Meat*, it was unadorned guilt-trip about human degradation, young homeless people as mere commodity (minus extended warranty).

One day it will be placed on a homelessness double-bill alongside the excellent *Safe*, and thus come up with *Meat Safe*, the Victorian term for fridge, a popular consumer durable. This is not much to recommend it, I know.

that I am scraping the barrel. Jonny Lee Miller and Sarah-Jane Potts acted their hearts out as the star-crossed lovers Charlie and Myra, but they were destined for mince and we knew it. Myra's pimp was mad, obsessed and violent. Charlie was himself a pork chop short of an economy pack, and Myra looked like she'd been tenderised with a mallet. Charlie's hero was Sir Thomas More, but knowing this helped much less than you thought it did. Personally I lost interest at the point when Charlie underwent his second or third character change, and surrendered his young body to a giant in the showers. By the time he was playing a Julian Clary lookalike in a private sex show, I was thinking seriously about touting my petrol tokens. "Who do you think you are?" people kept asking him. And unfortunately it was a valid question. Who was Charlie? Who did he think he was?

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

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BBC1

- 9.00am Business Breakfast (37997)
- 9.00 BBC Breakfast News (31944291)
- 9.05 Kids On Kilroy Young people discuss the implications of single parenthood (s) (1889428)
- 9.30 A Word In Your Ear (s) (23288)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3784775) 10.05 Creature Comforts. Yorkshire: All White looks at the changes in his profession since he qualified nearly 30 years ago (4006442)
- 11.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3784775) 11.05 Cagney and Lacey. Chris and Mary Beth search for a woman who was driven to the brink of suicide by loan sharks (s) (Ceefax) (425572) 11.50 The History Man. Brian McNamara visits Burgundy Castle, a medieval fortress in Suffolk (s) (3342539)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (1937288) 12.05pm Pebble Mill Encore with Michael Crawford and John Humphries (s) (3141248) 12.55 Regional News and weather (1681084)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (31152)
- 1.30 Neighbours. (Teletext) (s) (3358905) 1.50 Turnabout (s) (3911713)
- 2.20 Knots Landing. (s) (379288) 3.05 Banksy's Bicycles. A young man from London visits the real Banksy Street (213375)
- 3.35 Cartoon. (3958177) 3.45 Minder. Clegg. Episode three of a 15-part comedy (397607) 4.00 Grumpy (s) (437205) 4.10 The All New Popeye Show. Cartoon double bill (s) (2015539) 4.35 Mighty Max (s) (352982)
- 4.55 Newswatch (347235) 5.05 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s) (434775)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (332846)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (307)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines (359)
- 7.00 Telly Addicts. Television trivia quiz (3607)
- 7.30 Watchdog. Consumer affairs series. (Ceefax) (s) (171)
- 8.00 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (2355)
- 9.00 2point4 Children. Domestic comedy starring Gary Olsen and Belinda Lang. (Ceefax) (s) (1862)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4930)
- 9.30 Panorama. An investigation into the "golden pyramid" culture. (Ceefax) (22862)
- 10.10 Nice Day At The Office. (Ceefax) (s) (318355) Northern Ireland: The Back Page 10.35 Nice Day at the Office 11.05 Film 94 11.35 UK Dance 12.15am-1.45 Film: Cassandra
- 10.10 Film 94 With Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed are *Speed*, *Ladybird*, *Ladybird* and *Forest Gump*. (Ceefax) (s) (707317)



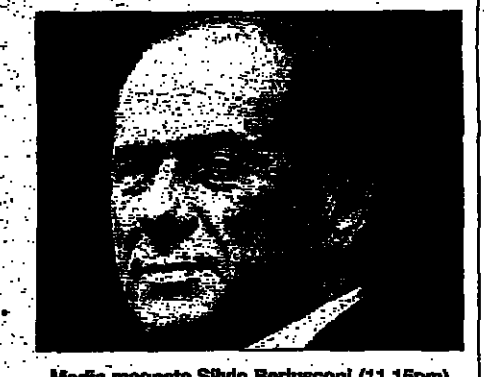
Gary Cooper in the shed (11.10pm)

11.10 FILM: High Noon (1952, b/w) starring Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly. Classic western about an anti-train robbery. The arrival of a killer due on a train arriving on time. Directed by Fred Zinnemann (319336) 1.10am Western (466108). Ends at 1.15

3.00-3.30 BBC Select: RCN Nursing Update (s) (32027)

BBC2

- 6.20 Open University: Social Problems and Social Welfare. Course Review 6.45 Authority in 18th century Europe 7.10 Arts: The Melbury Road 7.35 The World Subject of Bouff Bourguignon (237326)
- 8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (1008161)
- 8.15 Grand Prix. Highlights from Sunday's Portuguese grand prix (s) (1044292) 8.55 The History Man. Brian McNamara visits Oyle Hall, a medieval manor house in Suffolk (s) (223355)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (585084) 1.45 Words and Pictures (4197507)
- 2.00 Just So Stories. Animated version of Rudyard Kipling's *How the Camel Got His Hump* (s) (70190125) 2.10 Songs of Praise from the Dordogne valley (s) (Ceefax) (s) (3187133)
- 2.45 Bowls. The Saga International Open indoor championship from the Preston Guild Hall featuring the best men and women players from both the flat and crown green worlds (s) Includes News and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (7834317)
- 6.00 Murphy Brown. American drama series starring Candice Bergen. (Ceefax) (s) (396317)
- 6.25 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Teen comedy from America (488662)
- 6.50 Lupton's Lambton's Alphabet of Britain. In *Kiss for Kiss* Green Lambton visits the cemetery of All Souls (s) (Ceefax) (s) (258978)
- 7.00 The World at War. Alone. Laurence Olivier narrates the history of the Second World War (6881)
- 8.00 White Heat. A series examining the history of technology. (Ceefax) (151423)
- 8.50 Jools Goes To Portmarnock (s) (369152)
- 9.00 Rab. C. Nesbitt. The string-vested philosopher imports more words of wisdom. (Ceefax) (2572)
- 9.30 X-Files: Deep Throat. The casebooks of two FBI agents, based on bizarre real-life events. This week, the disappearance of a military test pilot. (Ceefax) (s) (118242)
- 10.20 Harry Hill's Fruit Fancise. The story of a Punch and Judy man who treats his public like his puppets (780268)
- 10.30 Newswatch. (Ceefax) (360355)



Media magnate Silvio Berlusconi (11.15pm)

11.15 The Late Show: Berlusconi Mussolini of the Media? (s) (478034)
- 11.55 Weather (275794)
- 12.00 Modern Art. Two sculptors, Smithson and Serra (18739)
- 12.25am Bowls. Highlights of the day's action from the Preston Guild Hall (s) (3424447). Ends at 1.20

Video Plus! and the Video Plus! Code. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video Plus! Codes, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record the programme. For more details on Video Plus! and the Video Plus! Code, see the Video Plus! Code on the back of the Video Plus! Code card or on the Video Plus! Code card on the back of the Video Plus! Code card.

CHOICE



Timothy Spall and colleagues (BBC 1, 10.10pm)

Nice Day At The Office. BBC1, 10.10pm. The ubiquitous Timothy Spall, the chubby, hang-dog, faces, plays a droll office back in a new comedy by Paul Shearer and Richard Turner. The basic joke is that he has been ten years in his job as a data manager, hates it and is desperate to leave, but cannot manage to make the break. There are echoes of *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*, not only in the disillusioned hero but in the acute dissection of office politics and the often anarchic humour. It is Spall's show and he makes the most of it, though David Haig scores as Spall's grumpy boss, Anna Massey makes a rare sitcom appearance as a prim ex-colonial and John Sessions enjoys himself as a security officer with a propensity to spout nonsense.

Berlusconi - Mussolini of the Media? BBC2, 11.15pm. A *Late Show* profile of the Italian Prime Minister and media tycoon is essentially a study in what the film called "virtual reality politics." It ascribes Silvio Berlusconi's political triumph to his ability to manipulate television. Since he owns Italy's three main commercial channels that was not difficult. But the projection of a glossy, upbeat materialist world with himself at its centre was carried through with great skill. Among his models was another great communicator, Frank Sinatra. He sold Forza Italia, his new political party, as if it was a brand of soap powder. But Berlusconi's honeymoon period is over and the question raised by the programme is whether he can survive without having to trade television politics for real ones.

Look Who's Talking: Coping With Grown Ups Channel 4, 8.00pm. A lively group of young actors offers a child's guide to what life is like in the adult world, but delivered with feeling. The only false note comes in the diatribe against school dinners, where the youngsters complain about too much stodge and no salad. Surely young people want chips with everything and definitely no lettuce? Otherwise the film rings all too true, as the mothers, fathers, doctors and teachers and pine each of them down with their own catchphrases. Any mother who has told her offspring that he/she is not going out looking like that and any father who has demanded what time their son or daughter thinks this is should recognise the portrait.

The Bureau: The Price of Progress Channel 4, 9.00pm. With police methods in the Rachel Nickell case under scrutiny, tonight's final programme about the FBI has a familiar echo. Undercover stings, in which agents pose as criminals to secure convictions, are a common part of FBI practice. The courts, however, can be less than impressed. The film tells the story of a young man set up by the FBI who suspected him of involvement in a murder conspiracy. Overturning the guilty verdict of the jury, the judge said the FBI had "behaved disgracefully." The programme also looks at how the microchip has enabled the FBI to beam information across the country in seconds. But it reveals that the system is far from foolproof and highlights one of its innocent victims.

Peter Waymark

CARLTON

- 6.00am GMTV (42317)
- 9.25 Supermarket Sweep. Shopping game show (s) (1885607) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (582133)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place... (s) (3199572)
- 10.35 This Morning. Family magazine (97249404)
- 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (s) (1926152)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (3081084)
- 12.55 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (306775) 1.25 Home and Away. (Teletext) (38508133)
- 1.55 Capital Woman presented by Annika Rice (s) (39105152) 2.25 A Country Practice. Medical drama (s) (20069423)
- 2.50 NEW! Carlton Cinema. A monthly series in which Fiona Oates examines the controversies and problems facing people in the Carlton region (2986339)
- 3.20 News (Teletext) (9158734) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (3157065)
- 3.30 Rainbow (s) (3982268) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (3933065) 3.50 Tots-Mania (s) (s) (3939249) 4.00 Sooty and Co (s) (2874733) 4.25 Transylvania Pet Shop (s) (2098662) 4.50 How 2 (3089878)
- 5.10 After 5 with Mary Nightingale. (Teletext) (4361442)
- 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (373862)
- 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' video soapbox (302602)
- 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (775)
- 6.30 London Tonight. (Teletext) (355)
- 7.00 The Russ Abbott Show. Comedy sketches (8775)



Sarah Lancashire plays Raquel (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street. Raquel has a surprise for Bel. (Teletext) (539)
- 8.00 Wheel of Fortune. Game show (7423)
- 8.30 World In Action: Retired Hurt. A documentary investigation into Knight Williams, the biggest retirement specialists in the UK, who have been fined £50,000 by a financial watchdog (s) (3930)
- 9.00 FILM: Gremlins 2 - The New Batch (1990) starring Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates and John Glover. A sequel to the fantasy horror comedy. Six years on and Gzmo and his gremlins wreak havoc on a media mogul's cable television network. Directed by Joe Dante. Continues after the news (591)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (76688) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (427775)
- 10.40 FILM: Gremlins 2 - The New Batch continued (327591)
- 11.40 The Equalizer (s) (525210)
- 12.40am The Little Picture Show. Film and video reviews (362805)
- 1.40 Endersleigh League Football Extra (3006718)
- 2.15 Renegade. American police drama (s) (2644640)
- 3.10 Sport AM featuring golf and boxing (9746373)
- 4.00 Beyond Reality. Adventures of two parapsychologists (52241466)
- 4.30 Videofashion (78824) 5.00 Hollywood Report. Showbusiness gossip (s) (57843)
- 5.30 ITV Morning News. Ends at 6.00 (14089)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 Chicken Minute. Animation (s) (22210)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (21775)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life Quiz game (s) (36065)
- 9.30 Schools. Geography 9.46 Talk. White and Read 10.02 Stage Two Scenes 10.20 The Maths Programme 10.40 The English Programme 11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica 11.15 Picture This! 11.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat 11.45 Junior Technology (s) (766713)
- 12.00 Right To Reply (s) (Teletext) (s) (366201)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. Early-learning series. The guest is the singer Patti LaBelle (s) (46152)
- 1.30 Hubblebloop presented by Floella Benjamin (s). Followed by Fourways Farm (s) (15085)
- 2.00 FILM: Jacqueline (1956, b/w) starring John Gargan, Jacqueline Ryan and Liam Redmond. Drama about the daughter of a Belfast shipyard worker who persuades a landowner to give her father a job when he is sacked after verger has driven him to drink. Directed by Roy Baker (191046)
- 3.40 Rights from the Heart. Three animations illustrating the problems of children growing up today (3980046)
- 3.55 Garden Club. A repeat of Friday's visit to Northwich, Cheshire. (Teletext) (3809423)
- 4.30 Countdown presented by Richard Whitley. Viewers have the chance of winning £1,000 in conjunction with The Times (Teletext) (s) (152)
- 5.00 The Late Late Show. Dublin's topical chat and music show, introduced by Gay Byrne (s) (5688)
- 6.00 Babylon 5. American science-fiction drama series. (Teletext) (812201)
- 6.55 Look Who's Talking... The first of four video diaries made by children during the summer holidays (337997)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (565201)
- 7.50 Belfast Lessons. A report by a student from Hazelwood College, Belfast (752539)
- 8.00 Coping With Grown Ups. (Teletext) (5065)
- 8.30 Desmond's. The return of the comedy series set in a Pockham, south London, barber's. Starring Norman Beaton. (Teletext) (s) (4572)
- 9.00 The Bureau: The Price of Progress. (Teletext) (s) (7133)
- 10.00 I'll Fly Away. Episode four of the drama series set in America's Deep South at the time of the civil rights movement. (Teletext) (s) (360171)
- 10.55 The American Football Big Match Miami Dolphins v the Minnesota Vikings (508607)
- 12.15am Transworld Sport (s) (223185)
- 11.55 Halfway To Paradise. Scottish entertainment series. The guests include the Four Brothers, the River Deverness and Edwyn and Jean. Plus a profile of boxer Gary Jacobs (s) (s) (228379)
- 2.15 FILM: Five Star Final (1931, b/w) starring Edward G. Robinson as the ruthless editor of a downmarket tabloid newspaper whose directing of a 20-year-old story leads to tragedy. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (231553). Ends at 3.50



Norman Beaton and Dean Gaffes (8.30pm)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA. As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (337222) 2.30am Yarn Can (30051404) 2.30-3.30 Breakfast News (336338) 5.10-5.40 Shredded News (336338) 5.50-6.00 Anglia News (79338) 11.40am Magnum (79338) 12.30pm Magnum (79338) 1.10pm Magnum (79338) 1.30pm Magnum (79338) 1.50pm Magnum (79338) 2.10pm Magnum (79338) 2.30pm Magnum (79338) 2.50pm Magnum (79338) 3.10pm Magnum (79338) 3.30pm Magnum (79338) 3.50pm Magnum (79338) 4.10pm Magnum (79338) 4.30pm Magnum (79338) 4.50pm Magnum (79338) 5.10pm Magnum (79338) 5.30pm Magnum (79338) 5.50pm Magnum (79338) 6.10pm Magnum (79338) 6.30pm Magnum (79338) 6.50pm Magnum (79338) 7.10pm Magnum (79338) 7.30pm Magnum (79338) 7.50pm Magnum (79338) 8.10pm Magnum (79338) 8.30pm Magnum (79338) 8.50pm Magnum (79338) 9.10pm Magnum (79338) 9.30pm Magnum (79338) 9.50pm Magnum (79338) 10.10pm Magnum (79338) 10.30pm Magnum (79338) 10.50pm Magnum (79338) 11.10pm Magnum (79338) 11.30pm Magnum (79338) 11.50pm Magnum (79338) 12.10pm Magnum (79338) 12.30pm Magnum (79338) 12.50pm Magnum (79338) 1.10am Magnum (79338) 1.30am Magnum (79338) 1.50am Magnum (79338) 2.10am Magnum (79338) 2.30am Magnum (79338) 2.50am Magnum (79338) 3.10am Magnum (79338) 3.30am Magnum (79338) 3.50am Magnum (79338) 4.10am Magnum (79338) 4.30am Magnum (79338) 4.50am Magnum (79338) 5.10am Magnum (79338) 5.30am Magnum (79338) 5.50am Magnum (79338) 6.10am Magnum (79338) 6.30am Magnum (79338) 6.50am Magnum (79338) 7.10am Magnum (79338) 7.30pm Magnum (79338) 7.50pm Magnum (79338) 8.10pm Magnum (79338) 8.30pm Magnum (79338) 8.50pm Magnum (79338) 9.10pm Magnum (79338) 9.30pm Magnum (79338) 9.50pm Magnum (79338) 10.10pm Magnum (79338) 10.30pm Magnum (79338) 10.50pm Magnum (79338) 11.10pm Magnum (79338) 11.30pm Magnum (79338) 11.50pm Magnum (79338) 12.10pm Magnum (79338) 12.30pm Magnum (79338) 12.50pm Magnum (79338) 1.10am Magnum (79338) 1.30am Magnum (79338) 1.50am Magnum (79338) 2.10am Magnum (79338) 2.30am Magnum (79338) 2.50am Magnum (79338) 3.10am Magnum (79338) 3.30am Magnum (79338) 3.50am Magnum (79338) 4.10am Magnum (79338) 4.30am Magnum (79338) 4.50am Magnum (79338) 5.10am Magnum (79338) 5.30am Magnum (79338) 5.50am Magnum (79338) 6.10am Magnum (79338) 6.30pm Magnum (79338) 6.50pm Magnum (79338) 7.10pm Magnum (79338) 7.30pm Magnum (79338) 7.50pm Magnum (79338) 8.10pm Magnum (79338) 8.30pm Magnum (79338) 8.50pm Magnum (79338) 9.10pm Magnum (79338) 9.30pm Magnum (79338) 9.50pm Magnum (79338) 10.10pm Magnum (79338) 10.30pm Magnum (79338) 10.50pm Magnum (79338) 11.10pm Magnum (79338) 11.30pm Magnum (79338) 11.50pm Magnum (79338) 12.10pm Magnum (79338) 12.30pm Magnum (79338) 12.50pm Magnum (79338) 1.10am Magnum (79338) 1.30am Magnum (79338) 1.50am Magnum (79338) 2.10am Magnum (79338) 2.30am Magnum (79338) 2.50am Magnum (79338) 3.10am Magnum (79338) 3.30am Magnum (79338) 3.50am Magnum (79338) 4.10am Magnum (79338) 4.30am Magnum (79338) 4.50am Magnum (79338) 5.10am Magnum (79338) 5.30am Magnum (79338) 5.50am Magnum (79338) 6.10am Magnum (79338) 6.30pm Magnum (79338) 6.50pm Magnum (79338) 7.10pm Magnum (79338) 7.30pm Magnum (79338) 7.50pm Magnum (79338) 8.10pm Magnum (79338) 8.30pm Magnum (79338) 8.50pm Magnum (79338) 9.10pm Magnum (79338) 9.30pm Magnum (79338) 9.50pm Magnum (79338) 10.10pm Magnum (79338) 10.30pm Magnum (79338) 10.50pm Magnum (79338) 11.10pm Magnum (79338) 11.30pm Magnum (79338) 11.50pm Magnum (79338) 12.10pm Magnum (79338) 12.30pm Magnum (79338) 12.50pm Magnum (79338) 1.10am Magnum (79338) 1.30am Magnum (79338) 1.50am Magnum (79338) 2.10am Magnum (79338) 2.30am Magnum (79338) 2.50am Magnum (79338) 3.10am Magnum (79338) 3.30am Magnum (79338) 3.50am Magnum (79338) 4.10am Magnum (79338) 4.30am Magnum (79338) 4.50am Magnum (79338) 5.10am Magnum (79338) 5.30am Magnum (79338) 5.50am Magnum (79338) 6.10am Magnum (79338) 6.30pm Magnum (79338) 6.50pm Magnum (79338) 7.10pm Magnum (79338) 7.30pm Magnum (79338) 7.50pm Magnum (79338) 8.10pm Magnum (79338) 8.30pm Magnum (79338) 8.50pm Magnum (79338) 9.10pm Magnum (79338) 9.30pm Magnum (79338) 9.50pm Magnum (79338) 10.10pm Magnum (79338) 10.30pm Magnum (79338) 10.50pm Magnum (79338) 11.10pm Magnum (79338) 11.30pm Magnum (79338) 11.50pm Magnum (79338) 12.10pm Magnum (79338) 12.30pm Magnum (79338) 12.50pm Magnum (79338) 1.10am Magnum (79338) 1.30am Magnum (79338) 1.50am Magnum (79338) 2.10am Magnum (79338) 2.30am Magnum (79338) 2.50am Magnum (79338) 3.10am Magnum (79338) 3.30am Magnum (79338) 3.50am Magnum (79338) 4.10am Magnum (79338) 4.30am Magnum (79338) 4.50am Magnum (79338) 5.10am Magnum (79338) 5.30am Magnum (79338) 5.50am Magnum (79338) 6.10am Magnum (79338) 6.30pm Magnum (79338) 6.50pm Magnum (79338) 7.10pm Magnum (79338) 7.30pm Magnum (79338) 7.50pm Magnum (79338) 8.10pm Magnum (79338) 8.30pm Magnum (79338) 8.50pm Magnum (79338) 9.10pm Magnum (79338) 9.30pm Magnum (79338) 9.50pm Magnum (7933

FORTE TO GIVE
TASTE OF
SAVOY'S NEW MENU

BUSINESS

GRAHAM SEARJEANT 42

THE NEARLY MEN
WHO ARE DOWN
AND OUT AT 50

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 26 1994

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Clarke wants IMF to relieve debt burden of developing world

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
AND JANET BUSH

THE Government is planning to announce an initiative to relieve the debt burdens of the poorest developing countries, by creating a mechanism that would allow past debts to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank effectively to be turned into grants.

Ministers' meeting in Malta. His proposal would benefit a large number of poor countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia that have shown willingness to co-operate with the IMF and World Bank in redesigning domestic economic policies, but have found their efforts thwarted by the need to maintain interest payments on their crushing burdens of debt.

However, debts owed to the IMF and the World Bank could not be written off, reduced or renegotiated through this procedure. Instead, many countries that could not afford repayments have been forced to borrow further funds to avoid default, which would mean no further borrowing was possible.

IMF should sell a small proportion of its \$40 billion worth of gold reserves and reinvest the proceeds in securities issued by the governments of industrialised nations. The income from these would be used to subsidise a new form of lending to the poorest developing countries. These loans would carry an interest rate of 0.5 per cent and repayment would not have to start for between five and 20 years. Because the IMF earns no income on its gold stocks, the British scheme would incur no costs for the Fund or the

industrialised world. Mr Clarke recognises that one possible objection is that sales from the IMF gold reserves might destabilise the gold market and thereby hurt South Africa and Russia, two countries that the G7 is anxious to assist. He insists, however, that the amounts of gold needed to implement their scheme would be too small to significantly affect gold prices.

The World Bank lent less to the poorest countries of the world in its fiscal year 1994 than in the previous four years and also less than the average it lent in 1985 to 1989, according to its annual report published yesterday. The Bank lent \$9.4 billion in fiscal 1994 (\$10.4 billion the previous year), of which \$30 million was lent to the Trust Fund for Gaza.

Firms face £10bn bill in pension judgment

By LINDSAY COOK AND ROBERT MILLER

BRITISH employers are braced for a pensions ruling in the European Court of Justice on Wednesday that could cost them up to £10 billion in back payments for part-time workers.

The case is one of six pensions disputes that should be settled this week. The European Advocate General has already recommended that Anna Vroege, who is employed by NCTV in Utrecht, should be allowed to join the company pension scheme retrospectively back to 1976. She had claimed that, because more women than men work part-time, exclusion equalled sexual discrimination.

The ruling would open the floodgates to claims from Britain's six million part-time workers — five million them women. British lawyers have submitted that retrospective should go back only to 1990. Most occupational pension schemes limit entry to full-time employees. Many part-time workers will still choose not to join schemes, because they cannot afford the employee contributions.

The Luxembourg court is expected also to give its long-awaited judgments in the Coleroll and Avdel pension cases. Coleroll is seen as crucial for reducing uncertainty about equal treatment of men and women in pension funds.

Roger Key, of Watsons, a firm of actuaries, says: "The European Court is expected to confirm that men will be entitled to the better benefits provided to women for service

from May 1990 to date, when schemes have been equalised. The cost is likely to be between £2 billion and £3 billion."

A series of judgments from the court last year have overtaken Coleroll to some extent. In the Bird's Eye Walls case, the court decided that a man retiring at, say 60, can be tied over with an extra pension at his firm's expense while waiting for his state pension, without a woman of the same age getting the same.

Another ruling established that pension rights earned for employment before May 1990 do not have to be equalised. In the same case, the court ruled that survivor benefits after a pension scheme member's death should be the same whatever the member's sex. Nevertheless, Coleroll will still rate as a milestone in pension rulings from the European Court. It should go some way to clearing up whether annuity rates, when used by money purchase occupational schemes or by Additional Voluntary Contribution plans run alongside occupational schemes, should be the same for men and women. It should also decide whether equality can be legitimately achieved by levelling down the advantaged sex to the disadvantaged sex's level.

Legal & General said that the Coleroll judgment may herald a flood of new business for big insurers — possibly of hundreds of millions of pounds — because of the winding up of company pension schemes that have been awaiting the ruling.



Pulling together: City oarsmen and women gathered at the Serpentine Boathouse, London, yesterday to raise money that will be donated on the theme of Caring for the Carens

Five days left to join PIA

By ROBERT MILLER

TIME is running out for more than 1,000 firms of investment advisers and managers that have not yet applied to join the Personal Investment Authority. They have until midnight on Friday to submit paperwork if they wish to stay in operation after October 1.

In most cases, people who fail to apply but keep on selling investments face prosecution under the Financial Services Act 1986. If convicted, they risk two years' prison and/or an unlimited fine. The PIA said. Instead of applying, firms can become tied agents of insurers or join national networks of advisers.

The PIA, the new sole regulator for sales of investments to the public, has had 4,159 applications, well short of the expected 5,500, and 1,964 have been passed to sell investment products to private investors. Rejected firms or individuals will have their names published. No announcements are imminent because an appeal process must be exhausted. Colette Bowe, PIA chief executive, said: "If investors deal with a business which is not authorised, they may lose official protection." Clients in doubt should check after Friday.

German store joins UK price war

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE supermarket price wars are set to intensify this autumn as Lidl, the German discount operator, makes its debut in the British market.

The company, which has about 1,500 outlets across Europe, generating more than £4 billion worth of sales, is due to open its first store in Britain within the next two months. It plans to have a chain of up to 50 over the next two years.

The first opening is expected to be at Bletchley, near Milton Keynes, in a retail development owned by Iceland. Work is under way at a number of other sites.

Lidl's arrival is bound to add to the intense price pressure that has beset the food retailing industry for more than a year. Fears are growing that a new round

of price campaigns is about to start before the crucial Christmas trading period. Tesco, Britain's second-biggest supermarket group, today launches its New Deal campaign, which will cut prices on 100 own-label and branded products.

Tesco said the campaign was a continuation of its current strategy to be competitive on pricing. "We are managing our prices and margins in a controlled manner. This is a skirmish, it is not a downward spiral on price." The leading players admit increased price competition has been largely driven by the rise of the discounters. The discount sector now accounts for 8 per cent of the food retailing market, a figure expected to double by the end of the century.

Lidl's formula of selling a limited number of branded goods at rock bottom

prices is similar to that of Aldi and Netto, which have both now established a firm foothold in the UK. They typically sell 500 or 600 lines against the 20,000 sold by leading supermarket operators.

But whereas Aldi and Netto have been building a presence in certain regions, Lidl is looking across the UK. There is speculation that it plans to open up as far apart as the South East and Scotland.

Iceland is keen on more joint openings with Lidl, if the Milton Keynes site goes well. Almost 30 of its 700 stores are operating alongside overseas discounters. Richard Kirk, Iceland joint managing director, says the formula has worked well. "The discount format is a complementary business to ours. We specialise in frozen, chilled and fresh foods and they carry more packaged and canned goods."

Aiming for a £10,000 float

PARTNERS of J Rothchild Assurance, the life office that was fined £100,000 by Lantoro in August for a series of rule breaches, joined other leading City names, including Sir Mark Weinberg, to brave the waters of the Serpentine in London's Hyde Park yesterday. They were taking part in a rowing event aimed at raising £10,000 for charity (Jon Ashworth writes).

Members of the Worshipful Company of Watermen guided the boats in traditional Doggett Coats and Badges, named for John Doggett, the 18th-century comedian who initiated an annual skulking race on the Thames.

Pay settlements likely to creep up as much as 4.5%

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WAGE settlements are likely to rise in the new bargaining round, Incomes Data Services, a leading pay forecaster, says today.

IDS says: "If inflation rises as forecast, and the economy is stronger, we might anticipate a steady rise in pay settlement levels into 1995, with most deals in the private sector in the 3 to 4.5 per cent range."

Meanwhile, the Confederation of British Industry will tomorrow propose that the Chancellor adopt measures to improve investment.

IDS says: "If inflation rises as forecast, and the economy is stronger, we might anticipate a steady rise in pay settlement levels into 1995, with most deals in the private sector in the 3 to 4.5 per cent range."

Social costs 'no bar to jobs'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government's claim that European social legislation loses jobs is challenged today by a survey of small businesses, which blames low economic demand as the major bar to employment growth.

The study, by the British Chambers of Commerce, follows the Government's latest move over European social law in which Michael Forth, the Employment Secretary, last week rejected a Brussels directive for paternity leave.

Ministers have increasingly claimed that factors such as high wages and non-wage costs, skill shortages and European

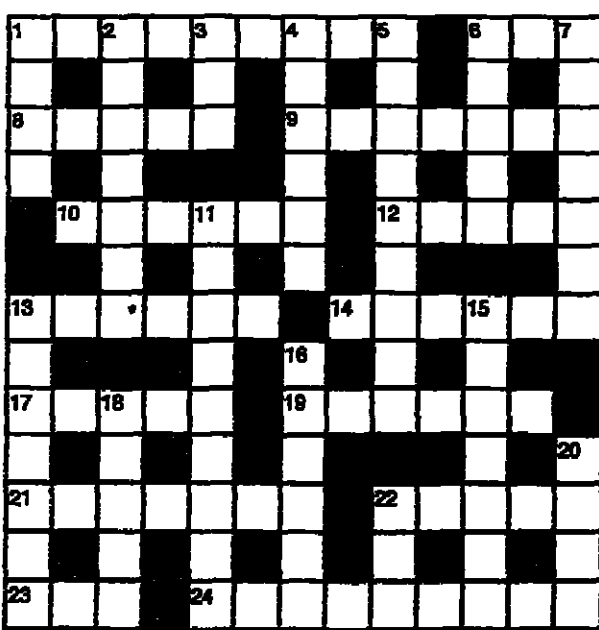
social legislation are inhibiting employment growth — especially in small firms. But the survey shows that low demand in the economy is overwhelmingly seen as the reason for poor jobs growth.

The study confirms that small firms are the principal generators of new jobs. However, where jobs were lost, it was chiefly due to the recession and falling demand.

Looking ahead, as many as 86 per cent of the small companies surveyed envisaged taking on more people, with a clear preference for employing people full rather

than part-time — again challenging the Government's claims. Only 3 per cent could not see any circumstances in which they would employ more people.

Asked which was the single biggest barrier to job creation, 54 per cent blamed low economic demand. Wage costs were cited by only 17 per cent and non-wage costs, such as pensions, were listed by only 5 per cent — the same proportion as those citing European social regulations; 65 per cent said EU social law was not likely to stem jobs growth in their firms.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 276

ACROSS

- 1 Odd bits sewn together (9)
- 6 Discharge: part of circumference (3)
- 8 Shovel: Waugh novel (5)
- 9 Get into trouble (5,2)
- 10 Depressing (6)
- 12 A hair dye (5)
- 13 Gloomy, boring (6)
- 14 Motivation: ill-will (6)
- 17 Humble (5)
- 19 Public expression (of idea) (6)
- 21 Cooking plate (7)
- 22 Pace, rate (5)
- 23 Tasteless, scruffy items (3)
- 24 Destined victim (6,3)

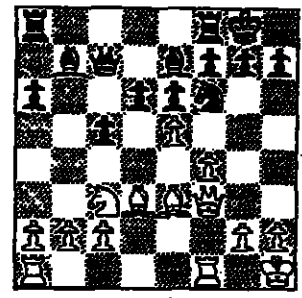
DOWN

- 1 Strike an attitude (4)
- 2 Deceive (in love) (3-4)
- 3 Fruit: body part (3)
- 4 Esoteric (6)
- 5 Field Marshal, Boer War commander (9)
- 6 Deathly pale (5)
- 7 Curved sword (7)
- 11 Death for one's beliefs (9)
- 13 Great pleasure (7)
- 15 Lowest quantity (7)
- 16 Rush headlong (6)
- 18 Card game (5)
- 20 Planted (4)
- 22 Tether (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 275

- ACROSS: 7 Court martial 9 Holbein 10 Token 11 Toll 12 Assemble 15 Egyptian 17 Quit 19 Offal 21 Shotgun 22 Great Red Spot
- DOWN: 1 Foul play 2 Crust 3 Amends 4 Pretzel 5 Pink 6 Claretine 8 That's enough 13 Bludgeon 14 Athlete 16 Aisles 18 Torso 20 Pret

This position is from the game Ivanchuk - Akesson, Intel Grand Prix, 1994. Here White won with a lengthy forcing combination. Can you see your way through to the end of it?



Solution, page 41
Raymond Keene, page 6

By Philip Howard

NANCY-PRETTY
a. Epicene
b. Bill Sikes's friend
c. London Pride

BETTY MARTIN

- a. Tommy rot
- b. A Cockney toast
- c. A shoeblack's call

MISS TAYLOR

- a. Spanish wine
 - b. Victorian name for a governess
 - c. A Jane Austen character
- MARTELLO
a. A hammer
b. A fort
c. A weasel

Answers on page 41

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